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FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY

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Higurashi
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CHAPTER 29: MIYO AND MIYOKO

...THERE'S A CHANCE YOUR LEFT EARDRUM HAS RUPTURED.

DO YOU HAVE A HEADACHE? ANY DIZZI-NESS?

NO. I'M PERFECTLY FINE.

.....

VERY SUR-PRISED.

WERE YOU SUR-PRISED?

I HEARD THE MESSAGE YOU GAVE TO MAEBARA-SAN—THE ONE FOR MION-SAN.

BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT THE MANAGER OF THE HINAMIZAWA FIGHTERS COULD HOLD HER OWN IN A GUNFIGHT.

BUT ONEE DOES.

I DON'T HAVE THE ONE I LOVE ANYMORE.

...ONEE WILL HATE ME FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES.

IF I LET YOU STAY HERE, KEI-CHAN, AND I SURVIVE WHILE YOU DON'T...

.....

"THE ONE YOU LOVE"... YOU MEAN SATOSHI-KUN, DON'T YOU?

I DON'T MEAN TO TEASE!

...AH— AH-HA-HA. OH NOOO!

IF WE MAKE IT OUT OF THIS ALIVE, I'M GOING TO BE SO EMBAR-RASSED.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE'S ALIVE OR DEAD.

...SHION-SAN.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE IS.

...SA-TOSHI-KUN...

GU. (CLENCH)

SATOSHI-KUN IS ALIVE.

...AND SUCCUMBED TO THE FINAL STAGES OF HINA-MIZAWA SYN-DROME.

ON THAT DAY LAST YEAR... HE HAD A TERRIBLE ANXIETY ATTACK ...

HE'S BEEN IN THE CLINIC BASEMENT UNDER-GOING TREATMENT EVER SINCE.

HE WAS DELIRIOUS, SO I TOOK HIM INTO CUSTODY.

.....

EH...?

...I'M SORRY I COULDN'T TELL YOU.

...SA-TOSHI-KUN...

HE'S... ALIVE...?

I THINK THIS WILL HELP.

KII. (CREAK)

キィ...

I'D HOPED WE COULD COME UP WITH A WAY TO THIN OUT CLINIC SECURITY AS MUCH AS POS-SIBLE...

ZAWA ザワ

ZAWA (MURMUR) ザワ...

FIRST THINGS FIRST—WE NEED TO RESCUE TOMITAKE-SAN FROM THE CLINIC.

AND AS SOON AS HE'S OUT OF THERE, WE'LL GET HIM TO CALL IN THE WATCH-DOGS.

ARE YOU OKAY!? HOW'S YOUR EAR!?

I'M FINE!

...MORE IMPOR-TANTLY ...

SHION!

...WE FOUND THIS ON THE LAPEL OF IRIE-SENSEI'S LAB COAT.

WE THINK IT'S A TRACKING DEVICE.

THEY USED THIS TRACKER TO PINPOINT EXACTLY WHERE WE WERE.

HMM, I SEE...

THEY'RE GOOD.

BUT NOW...

PIN (FLICK)

...WE CAN USE IT AGAINST THEM.

A DECOY TEAM WILL TAKE THIS BUTTON AND LURE THE ENEMY AWAY.

ONCE THEY'VE SENT AWAY THE CLINIC GUARDS, ANOTHER TEAM WILL ATTACK.

...YES, THAT WOULD BE BEST.

IF THEY'RE USING THIS TO TRACE OUR LOCATION...

...THEN WE CAN USE IT TO CREATE A DIVERSION!

PASHI (CATCH)

I HAVE A MOUNTAIN LOAD OF TRAPS THERE!

OHHH!

HO! HO!

IF WE'RE GOING TO LURE THEM AWAY SOMEWHERE, WE SHOULD TAKE THEM TO MY MOUNTAIN.

...IN THAT CASE...

THEY'RE LIKELY TO HOLD BACK A FAIR NUMBER OF GUARDS TO HOLD HIM THERE.

MR. TOMITAKE IS VITAL TO THEIR PLANS.

...BUT WE CAN'T PREDICT HOW MANY MEN WILL REMAIN AT THE CLINIC.

RIKA-CHAN...

IF YOU GO WITH THE DECOY GROUP, THE ENEMY WILL LIKELY SEND A LARGER FORCE TO CAPTURE YOU, BUT...

...WE JUST NEED TO GIVE THE DECOYS SOME BAIT THAT'S EVEN TASTIER THAN TOMITAKE.

IT WILL BE DANGEROUS, SIR. WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?

...THEY'LL NEVER CATCH ME, SIR.

IF IT'S A BATTLE WAGED ON SATOKO'S MOUNTAIN WITH ALL OF MY FRIENDS AT MY SIDE...

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HANDLE IT?

WHILE WE DISTRACT THEM, THE ADULTS WILL MOUNT A SURPRISE ATTACK ON THE CLINIC.

...OUR CLUB KNOWS THAT MOUNTAIN LIKE THE BACKS OF OUR HANDS. WE'LL BE THE DECOYS.

I'M OFF DUTY TODAY.

カチャ
KACHA (KA-CHAK)

...I HEAR YOU'RE WITH THE POLICE.

ONLY IF AKASAKA-SAN PROMISES TO LET ME DO MY THING.

JAKIN (KA-CLICK)

キーン!!

ROGER THAT!

OKAY, SATOKO. DRAW UP A MAP OF ALL YOUR BOOBY TRAPS ON THE DOUBLE!

HOW CAN YOU EVEN SUGGEST THAT?

YOU LIE LOW WHILE THIS ALL PLAYS OUT, SHION.

OUR STRAT-EGY HAS PRETTY MUCH COME TOGETH-ER.

HWA!?

SHII-CHAN!?

...THEY WON'T HAVE ENOUGH FIRE-POWER.

THERE'S NO QUESTION IT WILL TURN INTO A SHOOT-OUT, BUT IF KASAI AND AKASAKA-SAN ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN HANDLE FIREARMS...

...LISTEN, ONEE.

SU (SSK)

BUT SHION! WILL YOUR EAR BE OKAY!?

I'M GOING WITH THEM TO THE CLINIC.

...SOME-THING'S COME UP. I HAVE TO GO TO THE CLINIC.

...I DON'T WANT HER GETTING CAUGHT UP IN A GUN-FIGHT.

KARI (SCRITCH)

カリ

カリ

KARI

...AND SHE CAN'T.

BUT IF I TELL YOU, THEN SATOKO WILL WANT TO COME WITH US...

SHION...

DON'T TELL ME...

IS SATOSHI AT THE CLINIC...?

...THEN YOUR MIND IS MADE UP, SHII-CHAN.

I SEE...

KOKU (NOD)

コク...

I WON'T BACK DOWN, NO MATTER WHAT.

YOU UNDER-STAND, RENA-SAN.

BUT!

I'M NOT PLANNING TO DIE TODAY!

YES, I KNOW.

...IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT.

AT TIMES LIKE THESE...

...PRETTY GIRLS NEVER DIE.

EXACTLY!

I WON'T DIE, EVEN IF THEY DO KILL ME!

KOTSUN (BUMP)

コツン★

YOU TOO, SHII.

GOOD LUCK, RIKA-CHAMA.

WE'LL TAKE THE TRACKING DEVICE, SIR.

SHII.

SHION ...

YOU BELIEVED IN THIS MIRACLE SO STRONGLY.

AND NOW IT'S ABOUT TO COME TRUE, SIR.

GOD HAS SMILED ON YOU. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE.

...DAYS WHEN SOMEONE ADMONISHED ME FOR MY LACK OF FAITH...

...I FEEL LIKE... THERE WERE DAYS I DIDN'T BELIEVE...

THE HARDSHIPS THAT LIE BEFORE YOU WON'T BE HARD FOR YOU.

YOUR STRONG WILL BROUGHT THIS DAY TO YOU.

PLEASE MAKE GOOD USE OF THIS OPPOR-TUNITY.

BUT YOU REGRETTED NOT BELIEVING, AND YOU STARTED TO BELIEVE AGAIN.

...THANKS.

...YES. I THINK WE CAN DO IT.

YOU ABSO-LUTELY CAN DO IT, SIR.

BECAUSE YOU HAVE OYASHIRO-SAMA'S BLESSING!

KATSU

KATSU

KATSU

CLACK

WE BELIEVE THEY'VE GONE UNDER-GROUND.

WE'VE LOST THE SIGNAL FROM IRIE'S TRACKING DEVICE.

IF THEY TRY TO ESCAPE, WE'LL CAPTURE THEM ON THE SPOT.

AND WE'VE SET UP A BARRICADE ON THE ROAD TO OKINO-MIYA.

WE'VE CUT ALL COMMUNICA-TION L NES WITHIN THE VILLAGE.

THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO CONTACT THE POLICE.

...R AND HER ACCOM-PLICES WILL HAVE TO RESURFACE SOONER OR LATER.

KATSU

KATSU

...OR RISK RESCUING TOMITAKE...

WHETHER THEY TRY TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE...

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN AND BE PATIENT. DON'T RUSH ANY-THING!

THEY CAN'T STAY IN HIDING FOR-EVER!!

BAN (SLAM)

IF NOT FOR HIM...

...WE'D HAVE HER BY NOW...!

THAT DAMNED GREEN-HORN...

ZA (SALUTE)

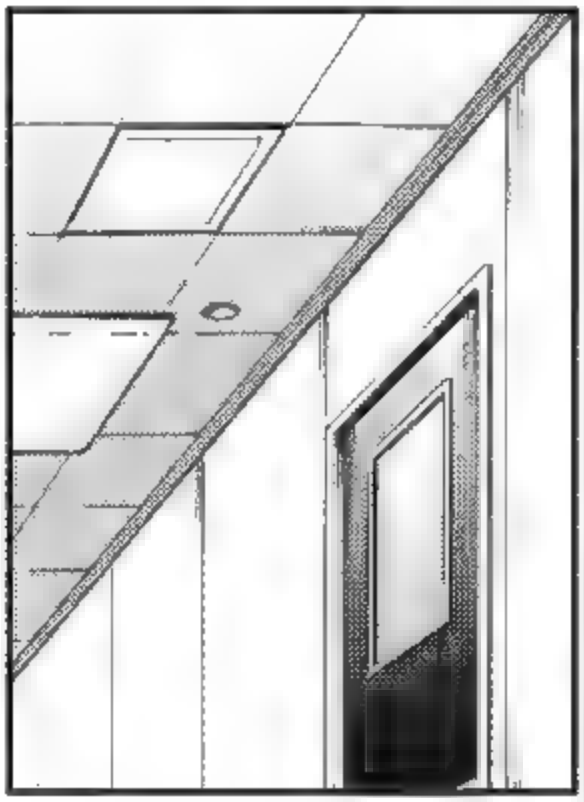
...COM-MANDER.

AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED, IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HAVE THE AUDITOR ON OUR SIDE.

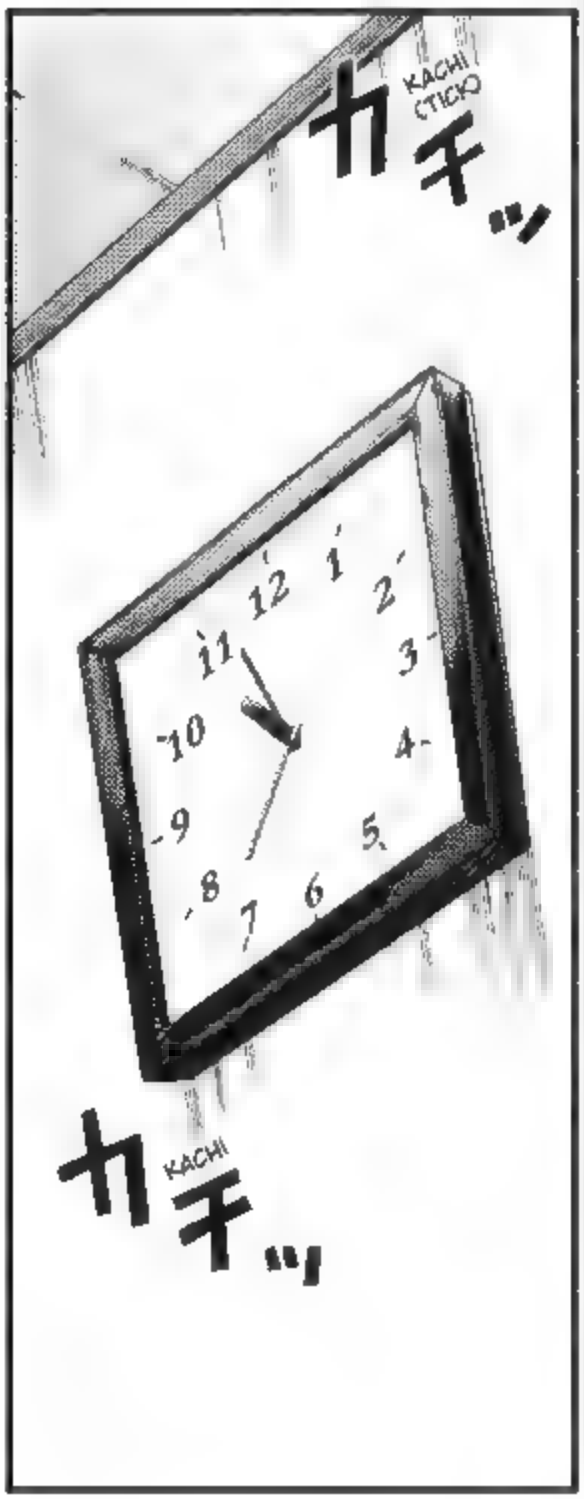
I BELIEVE SHE IS ASKING HIM TO JOIN OUR EFFORTS.

SHE'S INTERRO-GATING FIRST LIEUTENANT TOMITAKE NOW.

...AND HOW IS THE LITTLE PRINCESS DOING?



WHAT?
IT'S FOR YOU.
IN-COMING WIRELESS TRANS-MISSION FROM NOMURA.


カチッ
KACHI CTICKO
カチ
KACHI

AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
...WHAT WOULD THE QUEEN BEE OF TOKYO WANT WITH ME?

カチッ

カチッ

カチッ

IT'S ALMOST ELEVEN O'CLOCK.

TODAY HAS BEEN A LONG DAY.

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN TWELVE HOURS SINCE I WAS FORCED OUT OF BED THIS MORNING.

DON'T YOU AGREE?

DON'T YOU?

JIROU-SAN...

I'M ASKING YOU AS MIYO TAKANO.

I'M NOT ASKING YOU AS MAJOR TAKANO...

IT'S NOT TOO LATE, JIROU-SAN. WON'T YOU HELP ME...?

...AND YOU STILL REFUSE TO ANSWER...?

A PRISONER IS ONLY ALLOWED TO STATE HIS NAME, RANK, AND I.D. NUMBER.

I'M SORRY FOR SHOVING YOU UNDER THE TABLE.

...I DON'T HAVE THE KEY TO THOSE HAND-CUFFS EITHER.

THAT'S OKAY.

I DON'T EXPECT THAT FROM YOU.

...JIROU-SAN...

...DON'T YOU WANT TO LIVE?

IF YOU SWEAR TO ME THAT YOU WILL JOIN US...

...I CAN NEGOTIATE WITH MY SUPERIORS AND ENSURE THEY DON'T KILL YOU.

WHO ARE YOUR SUPERI-ORS?

I DON'T KNOW.

THEIR AGENT CALLS HERSELF NOMURA, BUT I DOUBT THAT'S HER REAL NAME.

WHY WOULD YOU FALL IN WITH THEM WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO THEY ARE?

.....

I KNOW THERE WAS A TIME WHEN YOU NEEDED SOMEONE'S HELP...

...AT THE TIME...

...I THOUGHT ...

...SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO UNDER-STOOD ME.

...ME TOO. IF IT HAD BEEN YOU, JIROU-SAN...

...IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SO MUCH BETTER...

...HAD BEEN ME.

I JUST WISH THE ONE WHO COULD BE THERE FOR YOU...

TAKANO-SAN...

.....

...NO ONE IS DEAD YET.

...IF I STOP...IT WILL BE AS IF...AS IF MY GRAND-FATHER'S RESEARCH NEVER EXISTED.

...BUT I DO.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS.

WE CAN STILL UNDO ALL OF THIS— PRETEND IT NEVER HAPPENED.

I NEED TO MAKE PEOPLE ACKNOWL-EDGE HIS WORK.

THE GREAT DISASTER THAT WILL BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY ENACTING THE EMERGENCY MANUAL'S INSTRUCTIONS...

...WILL ALLOW MY GRANDFATHER'S MASTERWORK TO BE PRAISED FOR ALL ETERNITY.

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THAT...

...THAT IS THE REASON MIYO TAKANO WAS GIVEN LIFE.

.....

THEN...

...WHEN THE OPERATION IS COMPLETE, MIYO TAKANO WILL HAVE ACCOMPLISHED HER PURPOSE, AND SHE WILL DISAPPEAR.

THEN YOU CAN GO BACK TO BEING WHO YOU REALLY ARE.

MIYOKO TANASHI.

THE REAL YOU I ONCE HEARD ABOUT.

AND WHEN YOU'RE MIYOKO TANASHI AGAIN, WHAT WILL BE YOUR REASON FOR LIVING THEN?

WEALTH? FAME?

...MIYOKO TANASHI...

THAT NAME BRINGS BACK MEMO-RIES.

I DIDN'T THINK I'D EVER HEAR IT AGAIN.

.....

MIYOKO TANASHI...

...WILL GO BACK TO THAT [illegible] AGE...

...TO THE BOTTOM OF THAT DARK, FILTHY PILE OF WASTE.

AND THIS TIME, NO ONE WILL COME TO SAVE ME.

SHE'LL STAY THERE, AND SHE'LL DIE.

.....

THEN THE IRIE INSTITUTE WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN FOUNDED, AND SHE NEVER WOULD HAVE WANDERED INTO THIS DEAD-END DESTINY.

IN FACT, MAYBE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF SHE HAD DIED THEN.

MIYOKO TANASHI HAD NOTHING.

YOU WANT TO KNOW HER REASON FOR LIVING? SHE HAS NONE.

...YOU INTEND TO DIE.

.....

THE WILD DOGS ARE ON MY SIDE. I PAY THEM ENOUGH.

ISN'T THERE ANYONE YOU CAN TRUST?

I SUSPECT ONE DAY I'LL SUDDENLY "FALL" FROM A TRAIN PLAT-FORM.

...THEY TELL ME THAT I'LL BE AMPLY REWARDED WHEN THE MISSION IS COMPLETE, BUT I DON'T TRUST THEM MUCH.

...BUT THEY.....

THEY'RE NOT THE FRIENDS I NEED.

...THAT'S RIGHT.

THEY'RE NOT THE KIND OF FRIENDS YOU NEED RIGHT NOW.

WHAT I NEED...

THE PERSON I WANT BY MY SIDE...

YOU ALWAYS KNOW JUST WHAT I'M THINKING...

YOU'RE RIGHT...

WHAT I NEED... ISN'T THE WILD DOGS.

PLEASE, JIROU-SAN!

COME WITH ME!

DAN (WHAM)

...NO, I'LL GIVE YOU MORE THAN MONEY!

IF IT'S MONEY YOU WANT, YOU CAN HAVE IT!

IF YOU WANT ME TO LICK YOUR SHOES, I'LL DO IT RIGHT NOW!!

IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN HAVE ME—FROM THE HAIR ON MY HEAD TO THE TIPS OF MY TOES!

WHEN WE AGREE TO MEET SOMEWHERE, I'LL ALWAYS GET THERE BEFORE YOU!

I'LL WAKE UP EARLY AND MAKE YOU BREAKFAST EVERY MORNING!

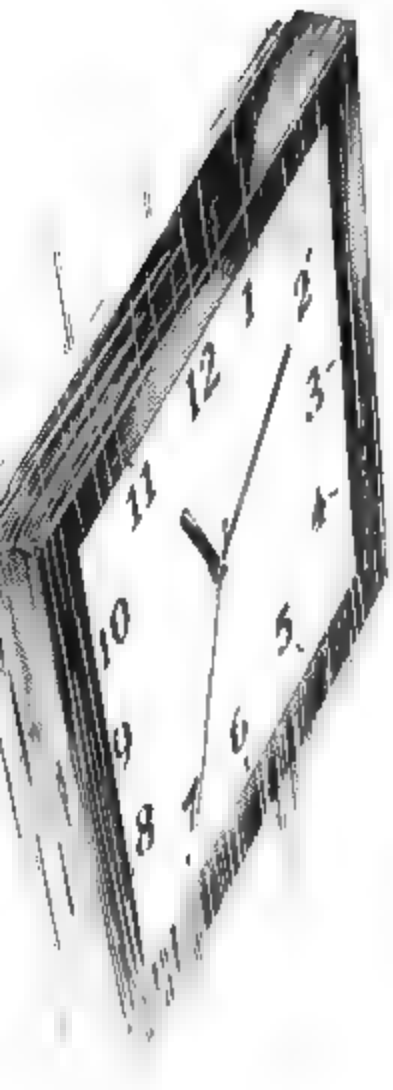
.....

SO PLEASE!

JIROU-SAN...!

I'LL NEVER TEST YOU TO SEE HOW LONG YOU'LL WAIT FOR ME— NEVER AGAIN!

.....



OR DO YOU HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO SAY TO ME...?

COME ON, SAY SOME-THING...

PLEASE...

PLEASE...

ANSWER ME, JIROU-SAN...

RRRR...

GUI (WIPE)

RRRRR...

KACHAN (CLICK)

GACHA (KACHAK)

...THIS IS TAKANO.

ALL RIGHT. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.

THEY'VE FOUND R.

...SOMETHING TELLS ME THIS IS THE LAST TIME I'LL EVER SPEAK TO YOU.

...I'M LEAVING, JIROU-SAN.

KATSUN (CLACK)

THEY'RE PLANNING TO ESCAPE ON FOOT THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS.

HER MOVEMENTS COINCIDE WITH THE SIGNAL FROM THE TRACKING DEVICE WE PLANTED ON IRIE.

I WISH YOU WOULD HAVE SAID ONE LAST THING TO ME.
IT'S REALLY NOT SO BAD.

BATAN
(SHUT)
バタン…

WE CAN'T LET R GET AWAY THIS TIME!
YOU KNOW THE PLAN!

TAKE IT ALIVE.

YOU CAN KILL THE OTHERS.

MAJOR TAKANO!

THEN WE WILL CARRY OUT OPERATION APOCALYPSE!!

I'LL BE TAKING COMMAND OF THIS OPERATION.

IF SHE MAKES IT TO THE CITY, WE'VE LOST HER!

CATCH HER BEFORE SHE LEAVES THE MOUNTAIN! DO WHATEVER IT TAKES!!

OUR TARGET HAS RUN INTO THE MOUNTAINS IN AN ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE TO DEMOCRATIS!

ALL OTHER PERSONNEL ARE TO HEAD TO THE MOUNTAINS!

A FULLY ARMED SECURITY TEAM OF EIGHT MEN IS TO STAY HERE AND GUARD FIRST LIEUTENANT TOMITAKE!

BE CAREFUL, ESPECIALLY OF THAT KARATE EXPERT!

YOU LEAVE HIM TO ME! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT BASTARD...!!

THIS IS WAR!!

WILD DOGS!

THIS...

...IS THE ONLY PATH LEFT TO ME.

OKAY, MEN LET'S GO

EVERY-THING IS RIDING ON THIS.

CHAPTER 30: BATTLE ON
THE BACK MOUNTAIN

...WILL MAKE IT OUT THIS MOUNTAIN IN ONE PIECE.

NOW, LET'S SEE HOW MANY OF THEM...

THERE THEY ARE. IT'S THE WILD DOGS.

THEY'RE COMING OUT IN FULL FORCE, JUST AS WE PLANNED.

HEH HEH HEH HEH.

THESE AREN'T JUST KIDS WE'RE UP AGAINST. DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN FOR A SECOND

YOU HAVE THE TASERS READY?

BEGIN THE HUNT!!

NIGHT-INGALE, SKYLARK, EGRET!!

THEY MADE SURE TO WAIT TILL FIRST THING IN THE MORNING INSTEAD OF ATTACKING US LATE AT NIGHT.

AND THEY CHOSE AN ESCAPE ROUTE THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS, WHERE THEY CAN USE GUERRILLA WARFARE

WELL, IT WON'T BE EASY.

...IT'S A BIG MOUN-TAIN...

I HOPE THIS HUNT WASN'T A BAD IDEA.

...BUT THERE IS ONE CHINK IN THEIR ARMOR.

WE DON'T HAVE MANY MEN FOR OUR SEARCH TEAM, AND EVEN FEWER OF THEM ARE FIGHTERS.

WHO-EVER'S CALLING THE SHOTS KNOWS WHAT THEY'RE DOING.

THEY MAY KNOW THE LAND, BUT THEY DON'T HAVE A BASE OF OPERATIONS...

...AND THEY DON'T HAVE TIME TO SET UP ANY TRAPS.

THEY ONLY JUST STARTED THEIR GETAWAY.

WHICH MOUNTAIN WAS THAT AGAIN...?

COME TO THINK OF IT, SATOKO-CHAN WAS ALWAYS BRAGGING ABOUT THE TRAPS SHE'D SET UP ON SOME BACK MOUNTAIN.

...TRAPS?

...!!

ス
SU
SHHP

DA
DASH
BEGIN-
NING
PUR-
SUIT!!
SKYLARK
TO HQ!
ONE
TARGET
WAS BEEN
SIGHTED!

EVEN IF
R ISN'T
WITH
HER,
WE CAN
HOLD
HER
HOS-
TAGE!
CAPTURE
AND
DETAIN
HER—
THAT'S
GOOD
ENOUGH
!!

WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

?

ゴロ〜〜〜
GORON (ROLL)

LITTLE BRAT! QUIT RUNNING!

スッ
SU

ニヤ
NIYARI (SMIRK)

DON'T THINK YOU CAN TIRE OUT A GROWN MAN!

This is Nightingale— we copy. Moving to provide backup.

GO SUPPORT THE NEIGHBORING TEAMS! CUT HER OFF!!

NIGHTINGALE, DO YOU READ ME!!?

ドド

DO (WHOOM)

ゴロロロロ…

GORORORORON (RRRRROLL)

!?

ドカ!!

DOKA (WHAM)

DOGO (CRASH)

GUH! HNNGH !?

THOSE DAMN KIDS! THEY'RE GOOD!!

DA (DASH)

-HYUN (WHOOSH)

ゴロン

GORON (ROLL)

NNGH...

GNH...

ゴロン!!

GORON

D-dammit! Skylark 4 is under attack! They shoved a pile of logs down the mountain!

DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY! AFTER THEM! AFTER THEM! AFTER THEM!!

SO THEY ARE GONNA PUT UP A FIGHT.

ZUUUUN
(TUMBLE)

STOP FALLIN' FOR THESE AMATEUR TRAPS!
WHAT!? I THOUGHT YOU WERE PROFES-SIONALS!

WE LOST TWO MEN TO A PITFALL!!
NIGHT-INGALE 10 TO HQ!

WHOA !?

ZuBO (SHOONK)

UWAH !?

ZA (FWIP)

Proceed with caution!

8-be careful!

The bushes are all rigged!

Su (SHHP)

ZA (ISH)

COMMENCING RESCUE

TWO MEN FELL DOWN AND CAN'T GET OUT.

WE'VE DISCOVERED A PITFALL THAT'S SOMETHING LIKE A WELL.

DON (WHAM)

UWAH!!

SMIRK)

HYURURURURURU (SHWOOOO)

WAAAAAH...!!

I DON'T SEE ANY AERIAL DRONES!!

HOW COULD THEY KNOW OUR MOVE-MENTS!?

TH-THIS IS THE BACKUP TEAM. WE'VE BEEN ATTACKED.

THEY KNOW OUR EVERY MOVE. BE CAREFUL...

WE HAVEN'T COVERED ANY DISTANCE, AND THEY'VE ALREADY INJURED SEVERAL OF OUR MEN!!

THIS MOUNTAIN IS COVERED IN BOOBY TRAPS!

TO THINK I'D FIND MYSELF IN SUCH A CRITICAL BATTLE AGAINST HER OF ALL PEOPLE...!

GIRI (GRIT)

IT'S SATOKO-CHAN...

WHEN DID THEY HAVE TIME TO SET THOSE UP!?

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON!?

ZA (ZSH)

...I HAVE TWO MEN UNCONSCIOUS AFTER TAKING A DIRECT HIT FROM AN OIL DRUM.

...HQ, DO YOU READ?

YOU'D BE DOING YOURSELF A FAVOR IF YOU TURNED AROUND AND CLIMBED BACK DOWN THE MOUN-TAIN.

THIS IS SKYLARK 13.

I'M GONNA CATCH THOSE BRATS IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO...

ANOTHER VICTIM COMES TO PLAY.

OH HO HO...

...YOU ROTTEN LITTLE PUNK!

YOU REALLY THINK YOU'RE HOT STUFF, DON'T YOU...!!?

NIYARI (S.MIRK)

A FRIEND OF R'S...?

YOU'VE GOT GUTS...

HYUU (F.WOO)

You'll fall into one of their traps!!

Stop, Skylark 13!! Don't chase her!!

DA (DASH)

AIII

...WHAT THE HELL?

ARE THESE ALL VICTIMS OF THE TRAPS...?

FOLLOW FOLLOW THE CLAPPING HANDS!

OH NO!

THIS WAY THIS WAY DEMON SAN!

IS...

DAMMIT, SHE THINKS SHE CAN TOY WITH ME!!?

WHATEVER IS THE MATTER?

IF YOU WANT TO CATCH ME, YOU STILL HAVE TEN MORE METERS TO GO.

WHA ...?

HQ to Skylark 13!

You've done enough! Wait for backup!!

IF YOU GO AFTER HER...

...SHE'LL DRAG YOU WITH HER DOWN TO HELL.

SHE'S A DEVIL IN LITTLE GIRL'S CLOTHING.

SHE'S MINE!!

I'VE CORNERED ONE OF THEM IN A CLEARING!

THIS IS SKYLARK 13!

WHAT?

WAIT, SKYLARK 13.

THAT CLEARING IS THE GIRL'S TRAP.

TEN METERS...

IN JUST TEN STEPS, I CAN CATCH HER!!

BUT IT'S ONLY TEN STEPS.

JIRI (TENSE)

TEN TIMES I'D HAVE TO RISK STEPPING INTO A TRAP...

I COULD RUN THAT IN TEN STEPS... THAT'S TEN TIMES.

...GO AHEAD AND TAKE THAT FIRST STEP?

IF YOU THINK SO, THEN WHY DON'T YOU...

DON'T STEP ON THE STUMPS!

THEY'RE RIGGED!!

SKY-LARK 13!

D-DAM-MIT!

KUI (BECKON)

KUI

COME ON!

...RIGHT. OKAY.

I JUST NEED TO AVOID THE STUMPS ...

IZA (ZSH)

WAIT! IT'S TOO DAN-GER-OUS!

DON'T WALK THROUGH THE GRASS!

THEY'VE GOT STUFF SET UP ON THE BARE GROUND TOO!!

HEY, COME ON...

THIS IS NIGHTIN-GALE 9.

...I'VE BEEN WRAPPED IN A MAT-TRESS...

...BY ONE OF OUR TARGETS.

... AND ...

Can you hear me, Skylark 13?

YOU WANT ME TO FLY!?

THEN WHERE AM I SUP-POSED TO STEP !?

ふぉあ

FUWAA (FLUFFY WIND)

FIVE STEPS.

...WH-WHAT...?

IF YOU CAN TAKE FIVE STEPS WITHOUT SETTING ANYTHING OFF...

...THEN I WILL ADMIT DEFEAT AND HUMBLY SURREN-DER.

HEH... THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.

SNOT-NOSED LITTLE...!

...SHE'S PATTING ME ON THE HEAD...

THAT'S OUR TRAP FIELD, SIR.

SATOKO'S GREATEST MASTER-PIECES ARE SET UP THERE.

NIPAAA (BEEAM)

M-MASTER-PIECES !?

LIKE THOSE OTHER TRAPS WERE INFERIOR !!?

HAA... (SIGH)

はっ…
HA (GASP)

GRR, YOU...

BUCHI

ブチッ

ブチッ

BUCHI SNAP

ブチッ
BUCHI

Skylark 13! Don't let her provoke you!!

Nightingale is almost close enough to provide assistance.

Just stay where you are!!

ゴゴゴゴ
GOGOGOGO (RRRUMBLE)

CALM DOWN.

COOL YOUR HEAD, SKYLARK 13.

MEN REPEAT THEMSELVES AN AWFUL LOT.

FIVE STEPS, RIGHT!?

JUST FIVE STEPS!?

GU (CLENCH)

DON'T GET WORKED UP. JUST THINK.

...THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE NUMBER THIRTEEN OF THE SKYLARKS.

YOU'RE AS COMPOSED AS GOLGO. THAT'S YOUR BEST QUALITY.

SUU (FWOOO)

スゥ

...

DAMN BRAT!

THE ONLY THING A MAN REALLY NEEDS TO REPEAT ARE WHISPERS OF HIS LOVE.

THE ANSWER IS OBVIOUS.

HEH HEH HEH...

Su ズ…

OH-HO...? WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN?

Su (SSK) ス…

IF I WALK FIVE STEPS, I WIN.

十! ZA (ZSK)

BUT...

...YOU NEVER SAID...

...I'D LET YOU GET IN MY HEAD— I DIDN'T REALIZE.

WHEN YOU SAID I HAD TO GO JUST FIVE STEPS...

SU (Sound)

...I HAD TO MOVE FORWARD!

I CAN TAKE FIVE STEPS BACK-WARD !!!

HUH?

I WIN!!

HOW D'YOU LIKE THAT, DEVIL !!?

SHE KNEW...

≠

KYU (TUG)

IMPOS-SIBLE.

SHE IS THE DEVIL!

BANG (BWOOM)

KACHI (CLICK)

PIN

PIN

WHA ...!?

BUN TWAANG

イーン

AAH...

AAAH ...!!!

...THAT I WOULD GO BACK-WARD!?

SHE KNEW ALL ALONG ...

ゴロゴロゴロ
GORO GORO GORO
UWAAAA...

UHH, UHH! IT'S INCREDIBLE, SIR!
AS LONG AS WE DO WHAT MION SAYS...
...THE WILD DOGS DROP LIKE FLIES, SIR!

SO WHAT WILL YOU DO, MY DEAR ENEMIES?
THIRTY PERCENT OF YOUR SOUTHERN FLANK IS OUT OF COMMISSION.

IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT WE BE WINNING.
HEH-HEH-HEH...THIS IS THE MOUNTAIN SATOKO SPENT SO MUCH TIME CREATING.

SEE?
I KNEW YOU'D BE FINISHED IN FIVE STEPS!
☆

ゴ...
GOOON (CLAAANG)

S-Skylark 13, what hap-pened!?
Skylark 13!!

AND THAT WILL BE OUR BEST CHANCE TO GET THEM!

THE SOLDIERS' MORALE IS DOWN BUT THEY'LL CONTINUE THE CHASE...

...BUT TAKANO-SAN HAS TO GET RIKA-CHAN NO MATTER THE COST. SHE WON'T LET THEM RETREAT

ANY RESPECTABLE COMMANDER WOULD ORDER A RETREAT TO HQ.

THEY SHOULD HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL DEALING WITH THE WOUNDED.

...IF THIS MION HAD BEEN BORN IN A DIFFERENT ERA, HER NAME MIGHT HAVE GONE DOWN IN HISTORY.

UHH, UHH! MION IS REALLY IN THE ZONE!

NANYU, TELL KEI-CHAN TO TAKE THE FIGHT TO AREA X!!

RIKA-CHAN, YOU JOIN RENA AND LURE THEM INTO AREA Z!

IF YOU ASK ME, NELSON AND TOGO...WELL, I GUESS THEY WERE OKAY!!

THE ENTIRE MOUNTAIN IS PRACTICALLY OURS! HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH!!

THE WAR IS JUST BEGIN-NING.

BUT THIS IS FAR FROM OVER.

ZA (ZSH)

...AND MAKE SURE THE ENEMY IS FOCUSING ON US ...

IF WE PUT ON A REALLY BIG SHOW HERE...

...THERE WILL BE FEWER PEOPLE LEFT GUARDING THE CLINIC.

THAT'S THE BEST WAY TO HELP TOMITAKE'S RESCUE TEAM.

WE'LL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN HERE ON THIS MOUNTAIN TO WHITTLE DOWN THE ENEMY FORCES.

SO, SHION...

...YOU DO EVERY-THING YOU CAN TOO...!

CHAPTER 31: FORCIBLE ENTRY

AND... I'M TOLD SATOSHI-KUN IS IN THE CLINIC'S BASEMENT TOO.

TOMITAKE-SAN IS BEING HELD IN THE BASEMENT OF THIS CLINIC.

HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CALL IN THE WATCHDOGS TO PUT DOWN THE WILD DOGS.

TOMITAKE-SAN, SATOSHI-KUN...

COACH ...

...WE CAN GET THEM OUT... RIGHT?

WE HAVE TO SAVE YOU... WHATEVER IT TAKES!

CHAPTER 31: FORCIBLE ENTRY

IRIE CLINIC, FIRST-FLOOR SECURITY ROOM

AT FIRST, THEY WERE ALL, "JUST AIM FOR HIS TIRES!"

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN WAY MORE FUN IF WE COULD'VE JUST AIMED FOR THE DOC RIGHT OFF THE BAT!

THEN HE WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN AWAY!

HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

KACHA (CLICK)

カチャ

BAN (BAM)

HANDS ABOVE YOUR HEADS!!

GATA (CLATTER)

ガタッ!

!!

...THIS IS WHERE IT WILL START TO GET DIFFICULT.

WITH YOUR INFORMATION, IRIE-SENSEI, IT'S ALL GONE SMOOTHLY SO FAR.

MOGA (TIGHT)

モガ…

I THINK WE CAN STILL USE MY FINGERPRINTS AND KEYCARD TO GET INTO THE BASEMENT WHERE THEY'RE KEEPING TOMITAKE-SAN.

THEIR SECURITY CAMERAS MONITOR EVERYTHING THAT COMES IN AND OUT OF THAT WING. THEY'LL KNOW WE'RE HERE BEFORE WE GET INSIDE.

BUT THE FIRST THING WE'LL COME TO AT THE FOOT OF THE STAIRS WILL BE THE BASEMENT SECURITY ROOM.

THEY ALL HAVE HANDGUNS, AND THERE ARE MORE POWERFUL FIREARMS NEARBY THAT THEY COULD GO FOR.

YES.

AND THERE ARE SIX WILD DOGS LEFT IN THE SECURITY ROOM?

SIX ARMED MEN...THAT COULD GIVE US SOME TROUBLE.

HEH HEH HEH.

I HAVE A BRILLIANT IDEA!

BASEMENT 1 SECURITY ROOM

Our losses have gone up from twenty to thirty percent...

We'll need you to head out, Phoenix...

LOOKS LIKE THE MAIN TEAM IS HAVING SOME TROUBLE.

COMMANDER OKONOGI IS HEADING TO THE FRONT HIMSELF.

I THOUGHT THEY WERE FIGHTING A BUNCH OF KIDS!

WHAT KIND OF SPECIAL FORCES ARE WE UP AGAINST!?

WHAT? WHAT COULD THE GUYS UP TOP WANT NOW?

H-HEY! LOOK AT THE MONITOR!

BUU (BZZT)

BUU

GYO (GAPE)

DOCTOR IRIE!!

WHAT'S GOING ON...!?

NO, WAIT A SEC-OND!

GREAT! CON-TACT THE MAJOR! TELL HER WE CAUGHT IRIE!!

AND THE GUYS UPSTAIRS CAUGHT 'EM...

HEH HEH I GET IT

THEY SNUCK IN TO SAVE TOMITAKE...

THEY COULD JUST OPEN IT THEM-SELVES.

WHY ARE THEY USING THE DOCTOR'S FINGER-PRINTS AND KEYCARD TO OPEN THE DOOR?

DON'T TELL ME THEY'RE ...!?

DON (WHAM)

WE'LL TAKE THE WHOLE AREA!

DA (DASH)

GA (CHAK)

TCH!

IT'S WORKING! I'M COMING, SATOSHI-KUN!!

WE USED THE WILD DOGS' UNIFORMS AND GOT IN BY PRETENDING WE'D TAKEN COACH PRISONER!

DO
DO
DO
DO (BLAM)
OH NO, YOU DON'T !!
FIRE!!
GAN (WHAM)
TCH! THE TAKE-OVER FAILED!
!?
JIRIRIRIRI (RRRRING)
WE CAN GO RESCUE SATOSHI-KUN AND TOMITAKE-SAN WHILE THEY'RE STUCK IN THERE!
BUT THEIR WHOLE FORCE IS IN THERE! THEY'RE LIKE RATS IN A TRAP!
BAN
BAN (BLAM)
TA (TMP)

YOU COULD HAVE TOLD US THAT SOONER!

GASHAN! (KA-CLANK)

O-OH, RIGHT! WE HAD A SECURITY SYSTEM IN PLACE TO DEAL WITH INTRUDERS!

All wings of the research facility will be on emergency lockdown until the issue has been resolved.

GA GA GA GA (CLANK)

Emergency in the entrance wing.

All staff in the entrance wing, please put on your gas masks.

WHIIIN (VWRRR)

Automatic dispensation of anti-intruder gas will commence in two minutes.

スイッチオン

THE MILITARY USED IT TO TAKE OVER ENEMY ENCAMPMENTS. IT'S POWERFUL STUFF.

ドドド

ドドドドドド

WHAT DO WE DO...!?

IF WE RUSH IN THERE WE'LL LAND RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT HORNET'S NEST

SATOSHI-KUN! I'M SO CLOSE...!

...I HATE THIS...!

EVERY-ONE

LET ME TAKE CARE OF THIS.

JAKIN KA-CLICK.

DO

DO

DO

DO

DO

DO (BLAM)

KASAI...?

BAN (BANG)

BAN

SU (SHHK)

ONCE THE GAS STARTS SPRAYING, THEY'RE THROUGH.

YOU GOT YOUR GAS MASKS ON?

DO

DC

WHY DID THEY CLOSE THE DOOR?

...?

BAN (S...AM)

SU (PRESS)

WHAT ARE THEY PLOT-TING...?

THERE'S NOWHERE FOR THEM TO HIDE.

THIS WHOLE WING HAS BEEN LOCKED DOWN.

ウ.ウウウ

...WAS ...?

カ"

WH-WHAT JUST HAP-PENED!? WHAT!?

THEY HAVE BULLETS THAT CAN BLAST THROUGH THE DOOR? AND THE WALL BEHIND IT!?

IS IT A MAG-NUM?

...THAT WAS...

NO. A MAGNUM COULDN'T DO THAT.

...THAT'S RIGHT.

IT HAS ENORMOUS FIRE-POWER.

A SLUG IS A GIANT BULLET THAT CAN BE FIRED FROM A SHOTGUN.

IT CAN BREAK THROUGH YOUR DOOR AND YOUR LITTLE BARRICADE TABLES TOO.

...A SLUG !!

(HUUUUU) (FSHHHHH)

URAAAAH !!

DO (BLAM) DO DO DO DO

KUH...

...I CAN TURN YOU INTO POWDER.

IN OTHER WORDS, EVEN FROM OUT HERE...

DAMMIT! OUR BULLETS JUST BOUNCE OFF THAT DOOR!

GAN

GAN

GAN (CLANG)

...THEY CAN BLAST RIGHT THROUGH THE DOOR... AND THEN THROUGH US!

WE CAN'T GET THROUGH TO THEM, BUT THEY...

DON'T PANIC! AND DON'T LET HIM GET TO YOU!

BUT ...!

...WH-WHAT DO WE DO...? WE STILL HAVE A WHOLE MIN-UTE BEFORE THE GAS STARTS UP!

HEY.

IF YOU DON'T SHUT DOWN THE ALARM BY THE TIME I COUNT TO FIVE...YOU'D BETTER SAY YOUR GOOD-BYES.

I'LL SETTLE THIS IN FIVE SEC-ONDS.

EEEP!

ドォォォォ

(BOOOOM)

...BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN IT BE-FORE...

I-I'D HEARD THE RUMORS...

THIS IS THE MAN ONCE FEARED THROUGHOUT SHISHIBONE.

GAN (WHAM)

ANSWER ME, YOU LITTLE FLEAS!!!

DO

DO (BLAM)

I WAS TRYING TO BE MERCI-FUL...

...AND YOU'RE NOT EVEN GOING TO HEED MY WARNING ...?

CAN'T YOU SHOW SOME DAMN GRATI-TUDE?

HERE I AM, TATSU-YOSHI KASAI, OFFERING TO LET YOU LIVE.

BIKU (WINCE)

EEP...

DO YA?

DO YA THINK I WON'T DO IT?

EEK!

SA'AN CLATTER

THE TRUE TATSUYOSHI KASAI!

WHO WANTS TO BE MADE INTO MINCE-MEAT FIRST?

W-W-WE SURREN-DER!!

DON'T SHOOT!!

"THE DRAGON WITH THE SHOT-GUN"!

A...AH'M SHAHRRY ...!

PLEASHE FORGHIFE ME...

ガチ ガチ

GACHI GACHI (SHAKE)

MY MOUN-TAIN OF CORPSES IS WAY BIGGER THAN YOURS, PAL!!

YOU GOT A DEATH WISH!!?

HOW LONG'RE YOU GONNA WAVE THAT PEA-SHOOTER AROUND, HUH!?

BIKU (WINCE)

ZAN (LUNGE)

GACHAN (CLATTER)

GA (CLANK)

GA

GA

GA

The lockdown has been aborted.

Repeat.

Lock-down aborted.

PI (BEEP)

GYU (TUG)

KASAI... YOU...

I'D HOPED I'D NEVER HAVE TO DO THAT AGAIN.

...PLEASE FORGET IT HAPPENED.

WE HAVE TO HURRY.

NOW THAT THE ALARM HAS SOUNDED, SOME OF THEM MIGHT COME BACK FROM THE MOUNTAIN.

HA (GASP)

SATOSHI-KUN!

WE HAVE TO HELP SATOSHI-KUN...!

BA (FWP)

I HOPE THEY FIND HIM...

...HNN?

DA (DASH)

AH! SHION-SAN!

I'LL GO WITH SHION-SAN!

YOU TAKE CARE OF THEM!!

IRIE-SENSEI SAID THERE WERE SIX MEN IN THE BASEMENT SECURITY ROOM...

ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE.

FIVE...?

ZOKU SHUDDER

OH NO...!

SATOSHI-KUN, SATOSHI-KUN!

KATSUN (CLACK)

SATOSHI-KUN...!

HMM (MUFF)

ACCORDING TO COACH, SATOSHI-KUN WAS BEING TREATED IN THE ROOM JUST PAST HERE.

I'LL SEE HIM SOON...

WIIN (VRRRR)

DA
(DASH)

DO
(WHAM)

!?

LUCKY FOR ME, I HAPPENED TO BE OUT ON PATROL!

HA (GASP)

HEH-HEH! GOTCHA!

YOU IN-TRUDERS REALLY DID A NUMBER ON US!

GLII (YANK)

GLII

HNGH ...!

NO CAN DO, MISSY.

YOU'RE GONNA BE MY BARGAINING CHIP TO HELP ME CATCH YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS.

DAMMIT... LET GO OF ME...!

SHION-SAN!?

THIS IS MY ONLY CHANCE TO SAVE SHION-SAN.

HIS BACK IS TO ME NOW.

IF THEY GET A HOSTAGE, THEN OUR PLAN WILL COME TO A GRINDING HALT.

N-NO...

I'LL HAVE TO DO THIS MYSELF...!!

THERE'S NO TIME TO CALL FOR HELP.

GU (CLENCH)

...

SHU (FSH)

RRRRRAAGH!!

R-

I DON'T WANNA KILL HER EITHER.

BUSU (STAB)

UGAH !?

BA KICK

WH-WHY, YOU...!!

C-COACH... I'M SORRY...

I WAS SO BUSY... THINKING ABOUT SATOSHI-KUN...

NGH ...!

SU (SLIP)

PLEASE STOP THIS POINT-LESS RESIS-TANCE.

OWW...

DAMN, THAT WASN'T BAD.

OH. IT'S YOU, DOCTOR.

DO (THUD)

ALL RIGHT, DOCTOR. IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO HAVE YOUR FRIENDS LAY DOWN THEIR WEAPONS?

I HEARD THAT GIANT BOOM. THEY MUST HAVE SOME PRETTY BIG GUNS.

...REMEMBER, IRIE. REMEMBER WHAT KASAI-SAN DID...

IT'S NOT OVER YET. THERE'S STILL SOME-THING I CAN DO.

KUH ...!

THERE'S A WAY TO BEAT THEM... A WAY THAT ONLY YOU CAN PULL OFF...!

YOU CAN DO THAT TOO.

は HA (GASP)

WHAT...?

YOU THINK YOU CAN BARGAIN WITH KYOSUKE IRIE?

HERE? IN THE RESEARCH WING OF THE IRIE INSTITUTE?

?

HEH... HEH HEH...

A LOWLY WILD DOG? GIVING ORDERS TO ME? YOU MAKE ME LAUGH.

AS IT HAP-PENS, THIS...

SU (SSK) OOO

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE MECHANI-CAL PENCIL I JUST STABBED YOU WITH.

...WAS DESIGNED BY TAKANO-SAN.

IT'S A SYRINGE MADE TO LOOK LIKE A PENCIL.

AND INSIDE THIS SYRINGE...

HUH? A SYRINGE ...?

WH-WHAT!?

YOU HAVE BEEN INJECTED WITH HI78.

...IS TAKANO-SAN'S GREATEST MASTER-PIECE.

I DID INDEED!!

NO...YOU DRUGGED ME WITH... WITH THAT...!?

SURELY YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH ITS HORRORS.

HI78— THE DRUG DESIGNED TO INDUCE HINAMI-ZAWA SYN-DROME.

THERE IS NO CURE FOR THIS DISEASE.

IN MERE MINUTES, YOU WILL GROW DELIRIOUS.

AND IN THE END, YOU WILL SCRATCH OUT YOUR THROAT WITH YOUR OWN FINGERS, AND YOU WILL DIE.

DON'T YOU FEEL YOUR LYMPH NODES BEGINNING TO ITCH?

SOON THE DRUG WILL REACH YOUR HEART AND SPREAD THROUGH YOUR ENTIRE BODY.

IT'S ALREADY BEEN THIRTY SECONDS.

Y... YOU'RE BLUFFING...

HNN ...!

ZO (SHUDDER)

(BORI (SCRATCH)

NN-NNGH ...

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

SU (SSK)

...THERE IS ONE WAY.

I-IS THERE ANY WAY TO SAVE ME!?

HURRY! LET ME HAVE THAT ANTI-DOTE...!

O-OKAY. I SUR-RENDER...

KHH...!

...I SUR-RENDERED! HAVE A HEART AND GIVE ME THE ANTIDOTE! PLEASE...!

LET YOU HAVE IT?

VERY WELL. JUST THIS ONCE, I WILL GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE.

MY, MY... YOU DO NOT KNOW HOW TO TALK TO YOUR SUPERIORS, DO YOU?

YOU MUST BE INJECTED WITH THIS ANTIDOTE WITHIN ONE MINUTE.

THIS BALLPOINT SYRINGE CONTAINS THE ANTI-DOTE.

...MUST BE INJECTED INTO THE BUTTOCKS.

ARE YOU LISTENING? FIRST, THE ANTIDOTE...

WHAT...?

AND THEN, YOU MUST BITE THE FINGERNAIL ON YOUR RIGHT THUMB, WIGGLE YOUR REAR...

...AND SAY, "DEAR MASTER, I'VE BEEN A BAD MAID. PLEASE GIVE ME MY SHOT."

FURI

FURI (WIGGLE)

FURI

YOU NEED TO GET DOWN ON ALL FOURS AND PULL DOWN YOUR PANTS.

TH...

...THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL!!

DO YOU NOT UNDER-STAND?

GOGOGOGOGO (RUMBLE)

LISTEN VERY CARE-FULLY!

OH, YOU CAN'T DO IT? HOW VERY, VERY SAD !!!

ビク (WINCE)

AHHH, I WEEP FOR THE YAMATO NADE-SHIKO!!

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE FORGOTTEN THE HEART OF THE MAID— THEY TAN THEIR FACES TO THE EXTREME, WEAR LOOSE SOCKS, AND DON TACKY, GAUDY HAWAIIAN COSTUMES !!

AND YET, AFTER THE MAGNIFI-CENT SOCIETY THEY CREATED, LOOK AT JAPAN TODAY!!

IN ANCIENT TIMES, MAIDS SWORE ABSOLUTE LOYALTY TO THEIR MASTERS. THEY DEVELOPED VIRTUE AND CULTURE THROUGH THEIR SELFLESS DEVOTION.

MIXING THE TWO SOMEHOW CHANGES THE MAIDS INTO HOUSE-KEEPERS, AND WE FIND OURSELVES WATCHING A SERIES ABOUT THEM!!

THAT WOULD MEAN THE EXTINC-TION OF MAID-KIND!!

SOON THE MOVIES ABOUT MIDDLE-AGED WOMEN THAT WERE PLACED IN THE ADULT SECTION OF THE VIDEO STORE AS PRESUMED TEMPORARY FADS WILL BE GIVEN THEIR OWN SECTION!!

MIXING MIDDLE-AGED WOMEN WITH MAIDS— IT'S LIKE MIXING TOILET CLEANERS! DANGEROUS! DON'T DO IT!!

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE ELDERLY BECOME THE MAJORITY POPULATION, AND THE MOE MEDIA STARTS TO TARGET THEM!!

AS A RESULT, THE LOW BIRTHRATE HAS YIELDED A SOCIETY OF THE VERY ELDERLY!!

THINKING ON IT, I REALIZE JAPAN HAS FORGOT-TEN ABOUT BOTH WABI-SABI AND MAIDS!

PAAAAAAA (FLAAAAASH)

MAID IN HEAVEN!

UWOOOOOOH!

A SPELL TO HELP IN TIMES OF TROUBLE, LEETAY LATU-PARITA MAID!!

IT WILL BE THE FINAL JUDGMENT DAY WRITTEN OF IN THE PROPHE-CIES!!

THE MOON WILL SHATTER, A RAIN OF SADNESS WILL DOUSE THE LAND, AND THE ASTEROID BELT WILL CONSTRICT THE EARTH!!

GET ON YOUR KNEES!! I COMMAND YOU, GIVE ME THAT STONE!!!

HO-HA-HA-HA! SILENCE! YOU ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE KING OF MAIDS!!

WHEN THE ENTIRE WORLD DONS THE GREAT MAID HEADBAND, THE TRUE KING OF MAIDS WILL REVIVE!!

WAHAHA

HA

HA

HA

HA!

POKA (KONK)

ポカッ

BUT I HAVEN'T FINISHED EDUCATING HIM ABOUT MAIDS!!

WHAT!?

SENSEI, LET'S SAVE THAT FOR LATER.

COACH? AKASAKA-SAN CAME AND BEAT THE BAD GUY FOR YOU.

YES, THANK YOU.

ARE YOU OKAY, SHION-CHAN?

THE SOCKS WILL NATURALLY BE KNEE SOCKS, BUT THE GARTER BELT WILL BE EXCELLENT AS WELL!

...NOW THERE'S NOTHING STANDING IN MY WAY...

GYU (CLENCH)

TA (TMP)

I'M COM-ING...

...SA-TOSHI-KUN...!

HA (GASP)

KATSUN

KATSUN (CLACK)

...I NEED YOU TO LISTEN TO ME.

HURRY! WE HAVE TO HELP SA-TOSHI-KUN...!

C-COACH!

SHION-SAN.

...BUT YOU HAVE TO PROMISE ME THAT YOU WON'T WAKE HIM UP.

WE'RE GOING TO PUT HIM ON A STRETCHER NOW...

SA...

...SA-TOSHI-KUN...

...SATOSHI-KUN SUFFERED SEVERE BRAIN DAMAGE AND MENTAL TRAUMA WHEN THE FINAL STAGES MANIFESTED IN HIS SYSTEM.

WH-WHY...?

HUH ...?

HE'S ALIVE, RIGHT...!?

YOU'RE ALIVE...

YOU...

...!

SO (SOFTLY)

IN HIS CURRENT CONDITION, SATOSHI-KUN WILL SEE EVERYONE AROUND HIM AS AN ENEMY.

HE'LL ATTACK ANYONE HE SEES WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION, LIKE A CORNERED RAT LASHING OUT AT A CAT.

EVEN IF THAT PERSON... IS YOU, SHION-SAN.

SATOSHI-KUN... HE'LL GET BETTER, WON'T HE?

NO...

LAST YEAR, HE HURT ONE OF OUR STAFF MEMBERS SO BADLY THAT THE MAN NEEDED RECON-STRUCTIVE SURGERY.

SATOSHI-KUN...? HE WOULDN'T...

.....

COACH ...?

WHY WON'T YOU SAY ANY-THING...?

D... DON'T TELL ME...

SATOSHI-KUN... WON'T GET BETTER?

HE WON'T... PAT MY HEAD ANY-MORE...?

HE WON'T EVER... SAY "HRRM" AGAIN...?

DON'T, SHION-SAN.

DON (THUMP)

...

NO...! WHY...?

WHY...!?

SEEING HIM AWAKE WILL ONLY HURT YOU.

PLEASE DON'T WAKE HIM UP...

UUH

...SA-TOSHI-KUN...

NO...

PLEASE UNDER-STAND... FOR HIS SAKE.

I DON'T THINK SATOSHI-KUN WOULD WANT YOU TO SEE HIM LIKE THAT.

ZUZU (SNIFFLE)

NO...

...

NNGH

...

SATOSHI-KUN..... UUNH...

UWAA- AAHN...

WAAAAH...

AAAA

WAAAAH...

IF THE BRAIN IS DAMAGED, THE PERSON CHANGES, WHETHER THEY WANT TO OR NOT.

THE BRAIN IS THE PERSON.

IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO COMPLETELY CURE A PATIENT SUFFERING FROM THE FINAL STAGES OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

WHEN MY FATHER'S BRAIN WAS DAMAGED, HE BECAME VERY VIOLENT, AND MY MOTHER HATED HIM WITH HER DYING BREATH.

GU (CLENCH)

I'VE HAD ENOUGH... OF ALL THE SADNESS AND GRIEF...!

...SHION-SAN.

HUH...?

...SATOSHI-KUN IS TRYING TO COME BACK.

...SATOSHI-KUN'S BRAIN WAVE PATTERNS SHOW SIGNS OF RECOVERY.

... THEY'VE BEEN FAINT, BUT OVER THE LAST YEAR...

ZA-(ZSH)

...AND I WILL KEEP RESEARCH-ING. I WON'T GIVE IN.

...I KNOW WE WILL. I'LL STAKE MY LIFE ON IT!

IF WE BOTH REACH OUT OUR HANDS, WE'RE SURE TO REACH EACH OTHER.

THIS TIME I'VE SPENT A LOT OF TIME STUDYING. I HAVE AN IMMEASURABLE AMOUNT OF EXPERIENCE.

THIS TIME...

...IF IT TAKES EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING...

...I WILL SAVE SATOSHI-KUN.

I WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES...

...TO BRING SATOSHI-KUN BACK TO HINAMIZAWA!

I SWEAR, IN THE NAME OF KYOSUKE IRIE!!

SHION-SAN. LOOK THERE.

SU (SSK)

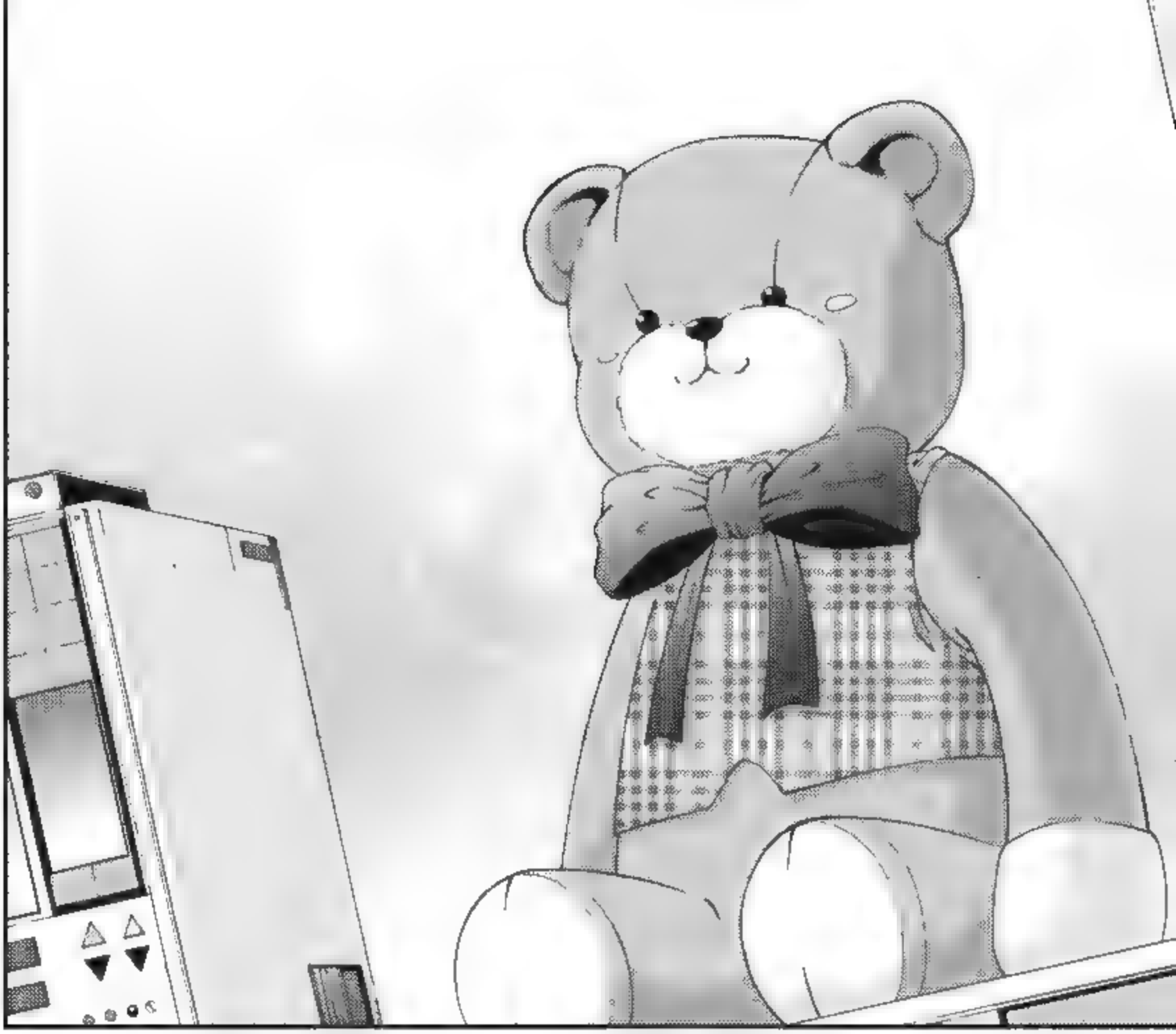
THEN SATOSHI-KUN... WILL COME BACK...?

R... REALLY ...?

BUT THIS TIME IT'S DIFFERENT.

I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR MY PARENTS.

COACH...



...A STUFFED BEAR...

DO YOU THINK HE WOULD BE ABLE TO DEPART THIS LIFE WITHOUT GIVING IT TO HER?
SATOSHI-KUN WORKED HIMSELF RAGGED TO BUY THAT BEAR FOR SATOKO-CHAN.

THEN, WHEN SATOSHI-KUN COMES BACK...

...WE'LL WELCOME HIM TOGETHER.

HAVE FAITH IN THAT DAY, AND WAIT WITH ME.

SATOSHI-KUN WILL COME BACK. TO GIVE THAT BEAR TO SATOKO-CHAN.

GU (PRESS)

...

HNN ...

NNGH ...

I'LL DO ANYTHING IF IT MEANS GETTING SATOSHI-KUN BACK...

...YES...

I'LL ENDURE ANY-THING...

...CAN YOU KEEP THIS SAD SECRET FROM SATOKO-CHAN UNTIL THEN?

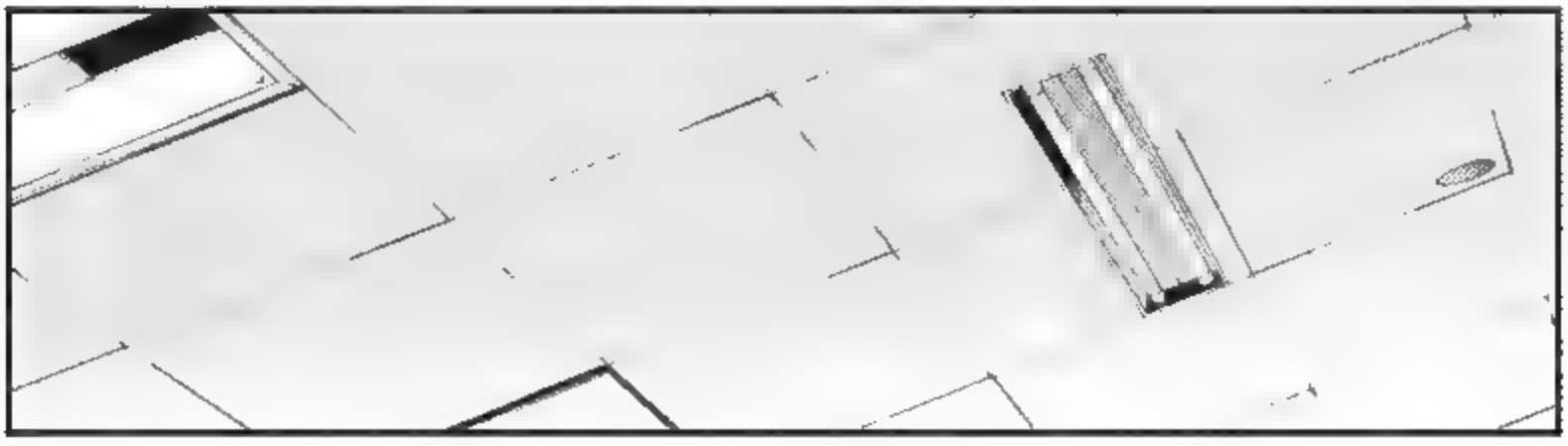
CAN I SIT BESIDE HIM...AND READ TO HIM?

MAY I... COME VISIT HIM...?

AND, AND...

OF COURSE.

CERTAINLY... I THINK HE WOULD LIKE THAT.



IF YOU CAN CALL THE WATCHDOGS, WE CAN RESOLVE THIS WHOLE MESS.

I'M SORRY FOR GETTING MYSELF CAP-TURED...

TOMI-TAKE-SAN, WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE SAFE.

ABOUT THAT...

YOU COULDN'T HAVE ACTED ANY DIFFERENTLY. IT WAS AN EMER-GENCY.

MY APOLO-GIES...

IS THAT BECAUSE OF OUR GUN-FIGHT?

BUT...

IF WE WANT TO CALL THE WATCHDOGS, WE HAVE TO GET TO OKINOMIYA.

WE DON'T HAVE ANY WAY TO CONTACT ANYONE OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE.

...AND I'M SURE THE WILD DOGS HAVE CUT OFF ALL COMMU-NICATION IN THE VILLAGE, AS PER THE EMERGENCY MANUAL'S INSTRUC-TIONS.

THE WIRELESS IN THE SECURITY ROOM WAS BROKEN...

IF WE TRY AND TAKE A DETOUR, THE SUN WILL SET BEFORE WE GET THERE.

UNLESS WE BREAK THROUGH THE BARRICADE IN A CAR, WE'LL USE UP VALUABLE TIME.

THERE'LL BE NO AVOIDING A CONFRON-TATION.

...THE WILD DOGS WILL BE BLOCKING THE ROAD TO THE CITY.

WE DON'T HAVE ANY TIME TO WASTE.

ONEE IS FIGHTING THEM IN THE BACK MOUNTAIN AS WE SPEAK.

LET'S BREAK THROUGH THEIR BARRICADE AND END THIS WAR AS SOON AS WE CAN.

WE HAVE TO WIN THIS SO THAT YOU CAN KEEP TREATING SATOSHI-KUN.

GUI (WIPE)

グイ！

THIS IS JUST A LITTLE SNAG. WE CAN'T LET IT BEAT US... RIGHT?

SHION-SAN...

HE'LL CALL IN THE WATCH-DOGS.

WE'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO RUSH TOMITAKE-OJISAMA TO OKINOMIYA.

ZA (ZSH)

COACH, YOU TAKE SATOSHI-KUN SOME-WHERE SAFE.

AND WE'LL SETTLE THIS FIGHT ONCE AND FOR ALL!!

CHAPTER 32: BREAKING THE BARRIER

MAJOR TAKANO! WE'VE SUF-FERED HEAVY CASUAL-TIES!!

PLEASE, ORDER A RETREAT!

UWAAAH...

GORON (ROLL)

GORON ゴロン ゴロン...

I THOUGHT THE WILD DOGS WERE THE BEST IN THE WORLD!!

...TCH!

YOU CALL YOUR-SELVES A SPECIAL FORCE!?

GU (CLENCH)

YOU KNOW I CAN'T ALLOW A RETREAT...

FOR MY GRAND-FATHER'S RESEARCH...

SIRI (GRIT)

...!!!...

ZAZA (KIZZT)

Nightingale 1 to Nightingale 13.

DOES THE MAJOR EVEN KNOW ANY TACTIC BESIDES "CHARGE"?

ZA

HAA

HUFF

ZA

...WHERE'S MY REAR GUARD!?

WH-WHAT? (-(OME TO THINK OF IT...

BA (JUMP)

They'll be coming for you next!

Your left flank has gone silent.

(SSK)

UHH, UHH, UHH !!!

BA (JUMP)

ZA (ZSH) ZA ZA ZA

UWAAAH!!

SU (SHHP)

OH SO PREDICT-ABLE!

GAN (CLANG)

OHH! OHH!

OHH-HHH!

TA (TMP) TA TA TA

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!?

WH-WHAT THE ...!?

YOU'RE SO ADOW-ABLE!

I'M TAKING YOU HOME WITH ME!

VUN (VWOOM)

GAAN (CLUNK)

...RAH!

RRRR...

KYUU (TIGHT)

NADE (PET) なで

NADE なで

POOR WITTLE GUY. MEW, MEW. ☆

YEAH!!

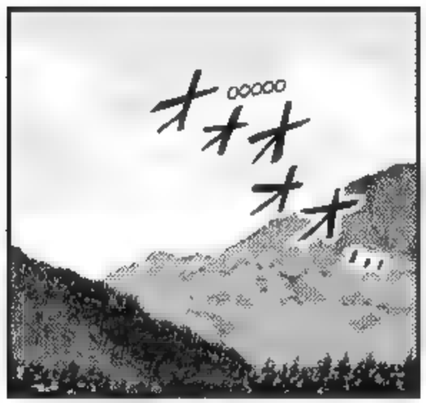
UHH, UHH!! A CLUB COMBI-NATION ATTACK!!

PAAN (CLAP)

KAKIIIN (CRACK)

TAKE THAT!!

BUSTER HOME RUN!!!


オオオオオ
オオオオ
,,,

THEY THINK THEY CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS...!?
DAMMIT...

HAA (HUFF)
WH... WHAT IS THIS MOUN-TAIN...!?
HAA

YEAAAH!!!
OOOOOO (HLIZZAH!?)
LET'S TAKE OUT EVERY-ONE ON THIS MOUN-TAIN!!

WHAT'S OUR NEXT PLAN OF ACTION? WHAT?
WHAT DO WE DO, MION?

THERE'S MORE GAME TO HUNT IN THIS MOUN-TAIN.
THERE ARE STILL SIGNS OF THE ENEMY, SIRS.

WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT THIS HAS BEEN MERELY A WARM-UP FOR OUR CLUB.
SO THEY HAVEN'T HAD ENOUGH YET, HMM?

HEH HEH HEH HEH!!
WELL, WHY NOT?

HOW COULD WE HAVE TAKEN SO MUCH DAMAGE IN SUCH A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME?

I DON'T KNOW WHO THEIR LEADER IS...

...BUT HE'S A GENIUS.

THEY SAY THAT UNDER A GREAT LEADER, ANY SOLDIER BECOMES STRONG ENOUGH TO TAKE ON THOUSANDS!

WE MIGHT AS WELL BE UP AGAINST AN ULTRA-ELITE ARMORED CORPS.

Night-ingale 13 has gone silent.

GIRI (GRIT)

TCH. THEY GOT ANOTHER ONE.

NOW I CAN SEE WHY.

IT'S RUMORED THAT HINA-MIZAWA IS A VILLAGE OF DEMONS...

SO THEIR LEADER IS THE DEMON...!

Th- this is Phoe- nix 9...

WHAT !?

HOW DID THEY GET THREE MEN IN THREE SEC- ONDS!?

Phoenix 2, silent.

Phoenix 4, silent.

A RIVER? THERE'S NO RIVER ON THE MAP! CALM DOWN AND ASSESS YOUR SURROUND- INGS!

I-is this a river...?

H-help me. I'm s-sur- rounded by fog...

PHOENIX 9, RESPOND !!

...PHOE- NIX 9?

...Heh...

Hee hee hee...

I-it can't be... on the other side...

It's my dead sister...

SHIN (SILENCE)

YOU HAVE TRAMPLED SACRED GROUND— GROUND THAT MUST NOT BE DEFILED. KNOW THE WEIGHT OF YOUR CRIMES.

WH- WHAT...?

FOOLISH MORTALS WHO KNOW NAUGHT BEYOND THEIR EARTHLY BONDS.

BID FAREWELL TO THE MORTAL REALM.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN THE FOLLY OF FAILING TO HEED MY WARNING.

ZO (SHUDDER)

SHE JUST STOLE SOME- ONE'S RADIO!!

CALM DOWN! SHE'S JUST A REGULAR HUMAN BEING!

D-DON'T FALL FOR IT!

EEP... M-MON- STER...!

...THE CRIES THAT ACCOM-PANY THAT PAIN...?

ARE YOU SO EAGER TO HEAR...

GHAAAH!

KA...

GYAHN

KH...

KGAAAH!

A...

E...

Y...

YOU'RE WITH THOSE BRATS, AREN'T YOU!?

SHOW YOUR-SELF!!

ARE YOU SO EAGER TO KNOW WHAT IT IS LIKE IN THE DEMON WORLD?

HEE-HEE-HEE. FOOLISH HUMANS.

GYA

KKH!

GYA

KGA

GHKNAGH

GNYAAK

バキッ!!

BAKYC (SPLORCH)

ボトッ..

BOTO (THUMP)

...WERE THOSE VOICES ...!?

WH-WHAT... THE HELL...

シーン

SHIN (SILENCE)

THEY'RE JUST A BUNCH OF KIDS! AND THEY'RE USING PSYCHO-LOGICAL WAR-FARE!?

DAM-MIT!!

AA AAA

UWAAHH

CALM DOWN! STOP THAT SNIVEL-ING!!

I'M ONLY DOING THIS TO EARN A LIVING!!

PLEASE, STOP! O GOD OF THIS MOUN-TAIN!!

...BUT THEN WE'LL BE PICKED OFF ONE AT A TIME.

THE QUICKEST WAY TO DEAL WITH THIS WOULD BE TO TELL EVERYONE TO STOP USING THEIR HEAD-SETS...

BUT THEY'RE VERY EFFECTIVE AGAINST SOLDIERS WHO ARE ISOLATED AND EXHAUSTED IN ENEMY TERRITORY.

TO A CALM SOLDIER, PSYCHO-LOGICAL TACTICS ARE NOTHING BUT A CHEAP TRICK.

GRI (GRIT)

IS THAT PART OF THEIR PLAN TOO?

JUST WHO ARE THESE KIDS...!?

UHH, UHH, UHH!

I'm only doing this to earn a living!!

Please, stop! O god of this moun-tain!!

NOT JUST ANYBODY CAN PULL OFF THAT THREATENING TONE!

THAT WAS AMAZING, HANYU-CHAN! YOU WERE JUST LIKE A REAL DEITY!!

HEH-HEH-HEH! IF IT'S SFX YOU WANT, I'M YOUR GUY!

UHH, UHH, UHH! BUT YOU WERE AMAZING TOO, KEIICHI, SIR.

THOSE SCREAMS SOUNDED JUST LIKE SOMEONE WAS STRANGLING A CHICKEN.

GAAH

GYAA

KAH

KA

TH

UHH!

WELL, SHE IS A DEITY, SIRS!

MAGI-CIAN OF THE MOUTH: KEIICHI MAE-BARA!

AS LONG AS THERE'S SOME-ONE WITH EARS TO HEAR!!

I'LL CAST MY SPELL ON THEM WITH MY KEIICHI MAGIC!

I BET YOU COULD PLAY A REALLY COOL HERO IN *GUNDAM* OR SOMETHING, SIR!

NIPAAA (BEEEAM)

にぱー☆

YOU SHOULD BE A VOICE ACTOR WHEN YOU GROW UP, KEIICHI, SIR!

GIVE ME THAT!

BA (SNATCH)

COULD THIS GET ANY MORE STUPID!?

A CURSE? GOD OF THE MOUN-TAIN!?

PAN (WHAP)

パーン

THE TOP OF YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND! LISTEN UP!!

DO YOU HEAR ME? THIS IS TAKANO! MAJOR TAKANO !!

DRAG THAT ARROGANT DEITY OFF HER THRONE!

THERE ARE NO DEMONS, AND THERE ARE NO GODS!

IF YOU DO SPOT ANY, THEN FIGHT THEM!

A TASER WON'T BE ENOUGH TO STOP THEM!!

MAJOR! REQUESTING PERMISSION TO RETURN TO HQ FOR EQUIP-MENT!

I don't care if you have to crawl over each other on the way— just get them!!

The enemy is using the forest services' supply shack near the top of the mountain as their base of operations!

Of course they're taking you by surprise!

IF WE PULL OUT NOW, THEY'LL GET AWAY!

I CAN'T ALLOW IT!

SU (SHK)

TCH.

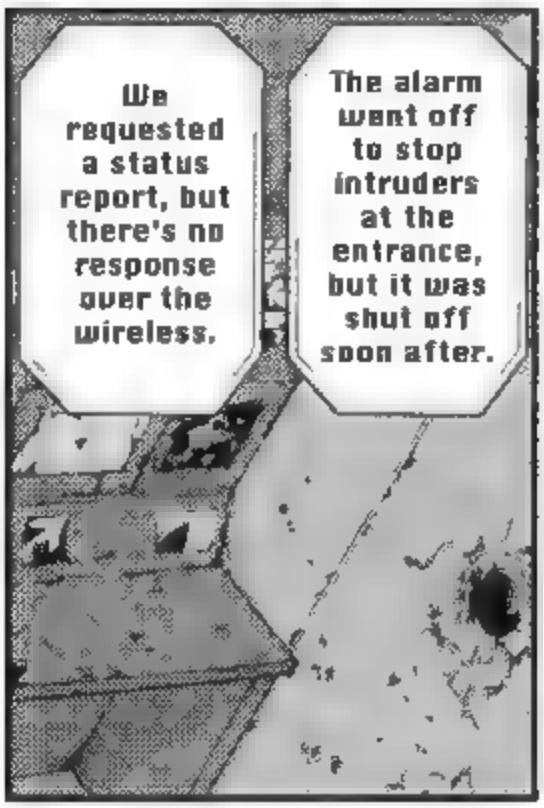
A COMMANDING OFFICER SHOVING HER SUBORDINATES INTO THE JAWS OF DEATH.

I GUESS SHE CAN DO THAT BECAUSE SHE'S NOT IN THE THICK OF IT...

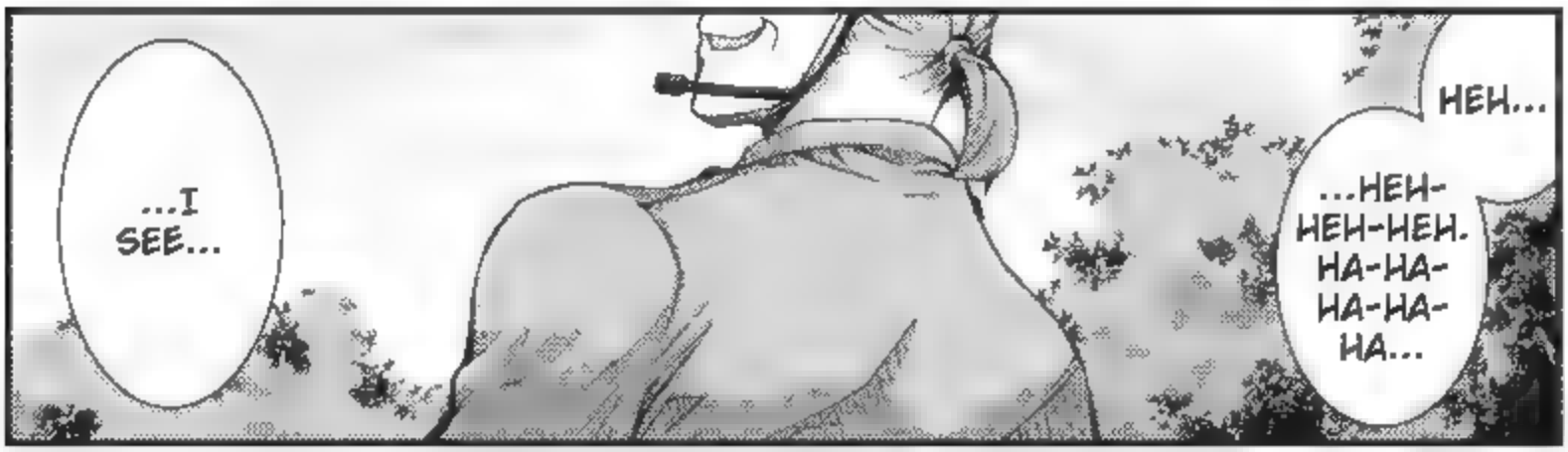
WHAT HAPPENED?

We have a big problem.

Commander. Emergency transmission.


We requested a status report, but there's no response over the wireless.
The alarm went off to stop intruders at the entrance, but it was shut off soon after.

The clinic's basement was infiltrated.


...I SEE...
HEH...
...HEH-HEH-HEH. HA-HA-HA-HA-HA...

What!?
...THEY TOOK TOMITAKE.

Com-mand-er...?

...BUT I COULDN'T HELP WRITING THEM OFF AS JUST A BUNCH OF KIDS.

GJ (CLENCH)

I DID CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS WAS JUST A DIVERSION...

THEY WERE PLANNING TO WEAKEN SECURITY AT THE CLINIC AND TAKE TOMITAKE WHILE WE WERE DISTRACTED.

IS THIS MY FAULT FOR BEING SO NAIVE?

GIRI (GRIT)

DON'T BE STUPID. THE PRINCESS HAS ASSIGNED ALL AVAILABLE PERSONNEL TO HER LITTLE R HUNT!

Should I send backup to the barricade?

TOMITAKE HAS BEEN RETAKEN.

THE FINAL BATTLE WILL BE AT THE BARRICADE AT THE EDGE OF THE VILLAGE.

...CALL CUCKOO IN TOKYO.

ZA (ZSH)

R... roger that!

CALL THE BAR-RICADE TEAM!

TELL THEM TO BE READY FOR A BREACH ATTEMPT !!

BURRRR (ENGINE)

ブロロロロ...

.....!

はっ (GASP)

IF WE CAN BREAK THROUGH AND CALL IN THE WATCH-DOGS... WE WIN.

WHEN WE GET THROUGH HERE, WE'LL BE IN OKINO-MIYA.

...BE CAREFUL, AKASAKA-SAN.

THERE THEY ARE! THE WILD DOGS!

THEY'VE GOT AN RPG TRAINED ON US.

IT'S POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DESTROY AN ARMORED VEHICLE IN ONE SHOT.

IT HAS A RANGE OF A COUPLE HUNDRED METERS.

THE ANTI-TANK ROCKET-PROPELLED GRENADE LAUNCHER: THE RPG-7.

THEY'RE GOING TO GIVE US SOME TROUBLE.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO, AKASAKA-SAN?

THEY'RE NOT FIRING YET— THEY'RE PROBABLY WAITING FOR US TO GET CLOSER.

ONE HUN-DRED METERS !!!

VOOOOO (ZOOOOM)

BURORORORO

WE ONLY HAVE ONE SHOT! WAIT AS LONG AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN!!

THERE THEY ARE! IT'S THEM!!

GET DOWN!

I'M GOING TO FIND A WAY AROUND THE VAN!

TWO HUNDRED METERS!

OKAY!!

TRY TO CLIP THEIR VAN!

STAY SHARP!

ONE HUNDRED FIFTY METERS!!

BURORORORORORO VRRRRROOMMM

BUT WE CHARGE ANYWAY!

FIRE!!

AKA-SAKA-SAN! BRACE FOR IMPACT !!

RRR-RAAA-AAAA-AAAH !!!!!

PREPARE TO FIRE!

DON
(WHAM)

DON'T TELL ME THEY...

は
HA (GASP)!!

WHAT JUST HAP-PENED ...?

WHA ...!?

MY SHOUL-DER!!

NGH...! MY SHOUL-DER...

ゴトン
GOTON (CLUNK)

...THEY HAVE SNIPERS ...!

ドドド

AS IF I WOULD MISS FROM THIS DISTANCE.

JAKIN (KA-CLICK)

NO BULLETS ARE GOING TO GET THROUGH THAT.

BUT THAT IS THE SONOZAKI FAMILY'S OWN PRIVATE, BULLET-PROOF LIMOUSINE.

HEH.

KASA!! THE ENEMY HAS ARMED THE RPG!!

DON'T LET THEM FIRE!!

BA (WHOOM)

I-I'M TRYING!

FIRE! NOW! BLOW THEM OFF THE ROAD!!!

GWAH!!

IDON (SHOONK)

BURORORORORORO (VRRRRROOOMMM)

RRRRAGH!!

HE'S TOO GOOD!

HE NEVER MISSES !!

TH-THEY GOT US AGAIN!

BA (FWP)

NO!! THEY'RE GOING TO GET THROUGH !!!

GAAAN (CRASH)

DAMMIT, THIS ISN'T OVER! AFTER THEM!!

IT HAPPENS IN MY LINE OF WORK!

BLRORORON (VRRROOM)

YOU'VE DONE THIS BEFORE!

UWAH!?

GAN

GAN

GAN (BLAM)

THEY'D NEED AN EXPERT SHOOTER-SPOTTER TEAM TO SHOOT WITH THAT ACCURACY!

GAN

GAN

I'M NOT HEARING THE GUNSHOT UNTIL AFTER THE BULLET HITS! THEY'RE FIRING FROM SOME DISTANCE!

BAN (BANG)

DAMMIT! THEY'RE SNIPING ME!

GOT IT! GIVING CHASE!!

GYA

GYA

GYA (SCREE)

YOU IN THE VAN! HIT IT!!

THEY'RE GONNA GET AWAY!

WE CAN'T GET IN!

GAN

ANYONE WHO APPROACHES THE CAR WILL BE SHOT!

GAN

BURORORON

GAN

GAN (BANG)

AND THEIR DRIVER'S GOOD. EVEN IN A VAN, THEY'RE CATCHING UP.

YEAH.

WELL? ARE THEY FOLLOWING US?

IF THEY WERE MY STUDENTS, I'D MAKE THEM RELEARN EVERYTHING FROM SCRATCH.

DON'T WORRY. THEY'RE TERRIBLE SHOTS. THEY WON'T HIT ME.

TOMITAKE-SAN, ISN'T IT DANGEROUS TO LEAN OUT THE WINDOW?

STU-DENTS ...?

I'LL HANDLE THEM.

YOU CONCEN-TRATE ON DRIVING, AKASAKA-SAN.

GUESS HOW THEY'LL ACT, THEN FIRE A BAR-RAGE IN THE DIRECTION YOU THINK THEY'LL BE.

...IN THESE SITUATIONS, YOU WANT TO PREDICT YOUR OP-PONENT'S ACTIONS.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT HITTING THEM. JUST TRY TO CATCH THEM IN THAT BARRAGE.

(BLAM)

EVEN IN THIS SHAKY CAR... ON THIS GRAVELLY ROAD.

THAT'S A STEADY FIRING STANCE.

(BURORORORORO (VRRRROOOMM))

BUT HE USED TO BE AN INSTRUCTOR WHO TAUGHT MARKSMANSHIP TO THE UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE TEAMS.

THEY SAY LIEUTENANT TOMITAKE WAS ASSIGNED TO OFFICE DUTY AFTER AN ACCIDENT.

HA (GASP)

Y-YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!

BAN

BAN

BAN (BLAM)

LIKE THIS!!

...HUH!?

MEKO (CRUNCH)

...TCH...

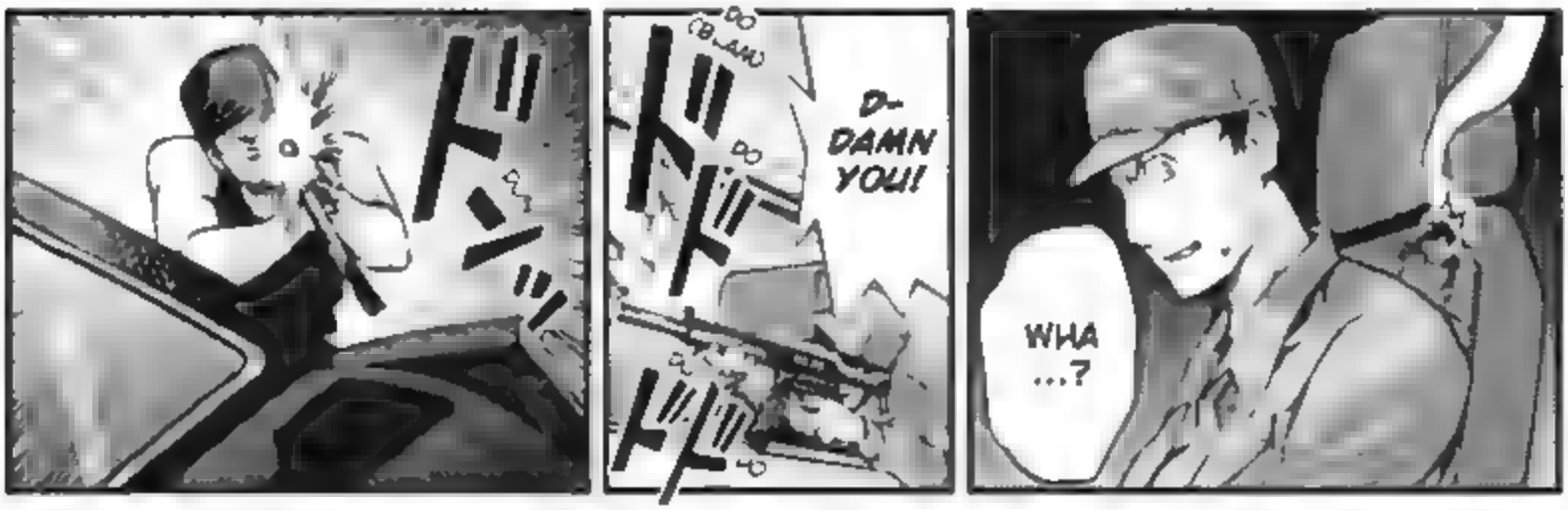
I-I HEARD A RUMOR.

I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST SOME TOKYO OFFICE WORKER!

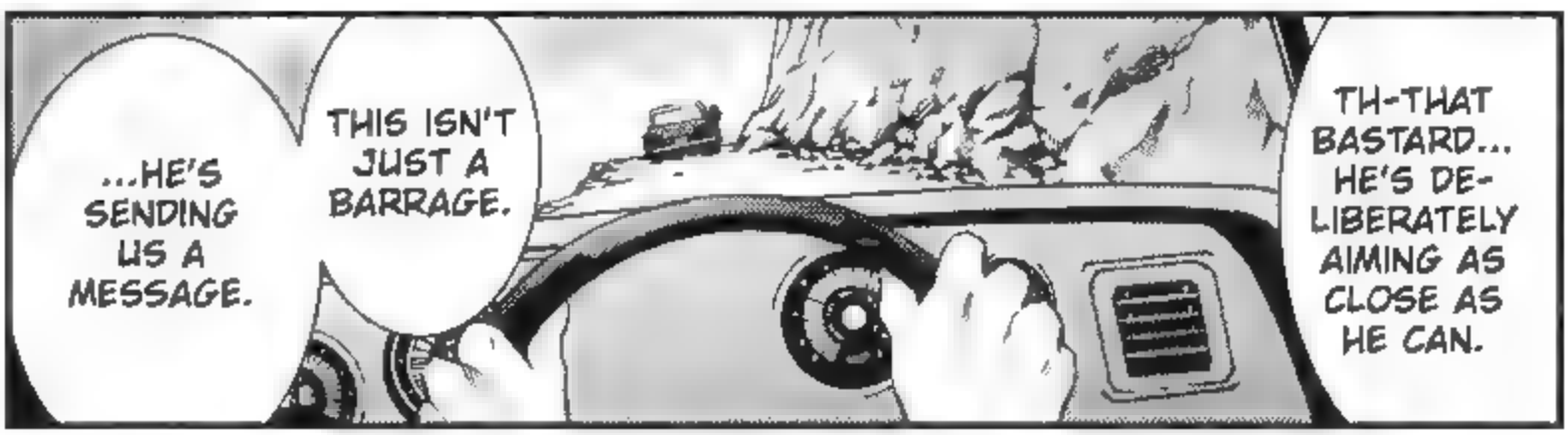
HE'S AN INCREDIBLE SHOT!!

BISHI

BISHI (KLANG)


D-
DAMN
YOU!
WHA
...?

PARA
(CRMBL)


...HE'S SENDING US A MESSAGE.
THIS ISN'T JUST A BARRAGE.
TH-THAT BASTARD... HE'S DE-LIBERATELY AIMING AS CLOSE AS HE CAN.

"OR ELSE..."
"STOP TRYING TO FOLLOW US."

CHA
(KA-CHAK)

EEP...

HE...

GATA (SHAKE)

GATA

AH...

AHH ...!

"...THE NEXT ONE WON'T MISS."

...H-H-HE'S GOING TO KILL US!

HE'S GOING TO KILL US!!!

GYA (SKREE)

GYA

GYA

I DON'T WANNA DIE!!

UWAH!?

CALM DOWN! KEEP DRIVING!!

-ZAZA (KHZZT)

Phoenix 1 to pursuit team.

KUH... DAMMIT!

WHAT ARE WE SUP-POSED TO DO...!?

YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH. DON'T CHASE THEM ANY FURTHER.

BURORO (VROOM)

THIS IS THE PURSUIT VEHICLE.

...ROGER THAT.

...NGH...

Tomitake is an expert marksman. Don't be in such a hurry to die!

ABAN-
DONING
PURSUIT.

RETURNING
TO BASE...

BURORORORORORO!

7000...

...YOU
MUST
HAVE A
LOT OF
EXPERI-
ENCE.

YOU'RE
AWFULLY
CALM FOR
HAVING
JUST BEEN
IN A SERI-
OUS GUN-
FIGHT.

HA-
HA-HA.
LOOKS
LIKE
THEY'VE
GIVEN
UP.

THEY'RE
SLOWING
DOWN.

AH-
HA-HA-
HA.

I'VE HAD
A LOT OF
PRACTICE!

11 7000...

BURORORORO (VRRROOM)

I NEED YOU TO TAKE COMMAND OF THE IRIE INSTITUTE IMMEDIATELY.

We worried when we lost contact with you!!

First Lieutenant Tomitake!! You're all right!

YES, WE'VE ALREADY MADE THE ARRANGEMENTS.

PLEASE SEND AN EMERGENCY WATCHDOG TEAM TO HANDLE THE SITUATION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE VILLAGERS CATCH ON.

SHOTS HAVE BEEN FIRED ABOVE-GROUND.

I'VE RECEIVED AN ORDER TO TAKE OVER THE IRIE INSTITUTE AND DISARM THE WILD DOGS IMMEDIATELY!

TOMITAKE-KUN! THIS IS OKA FROM THE INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION!

BURORORO (VRRROOM)

RORORO

ONCE I RELAY YOUR MESSAGE TO THE TOP BRASS, THEY WON'T HESITATE TO APPROVE YOUR REQUEST.

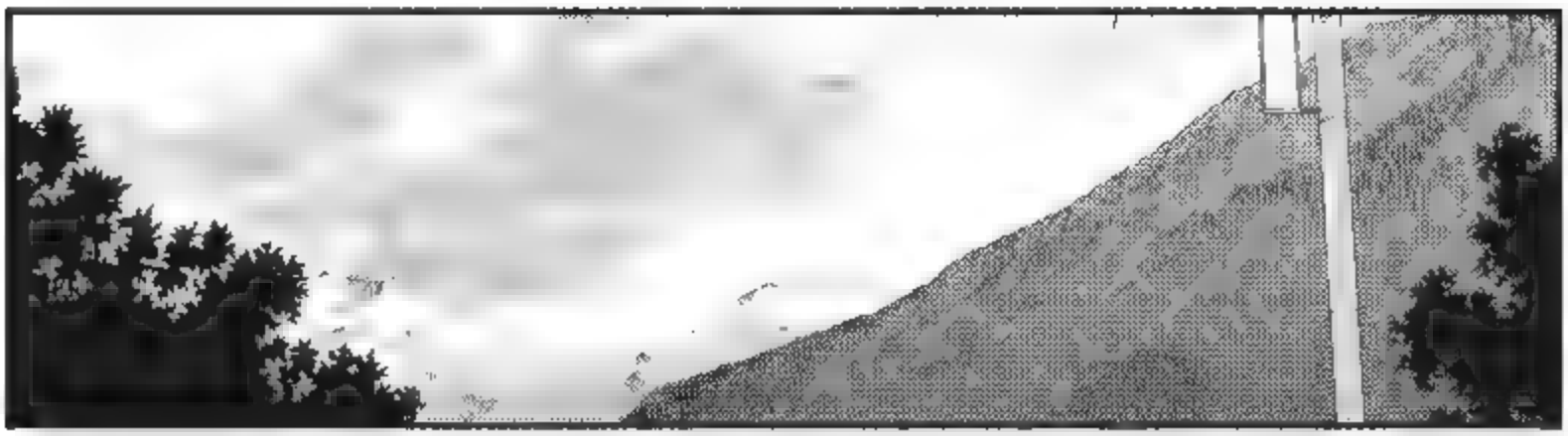
THE WATCHDOG TEAM IS AIRBORNE, STANDING BY 30 KM SOUTH OF THE HINAMIZAWA REGION.

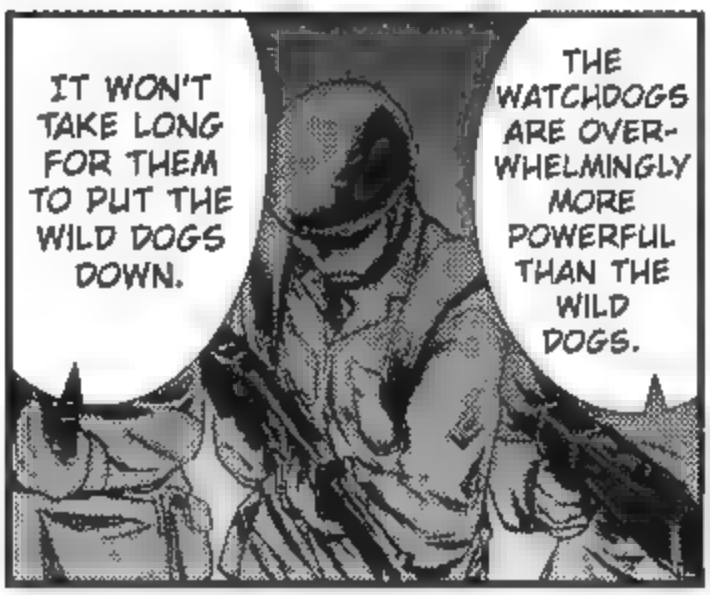
I also have an order to apprehend Major Takano and First Lieutenant Okonogi!!

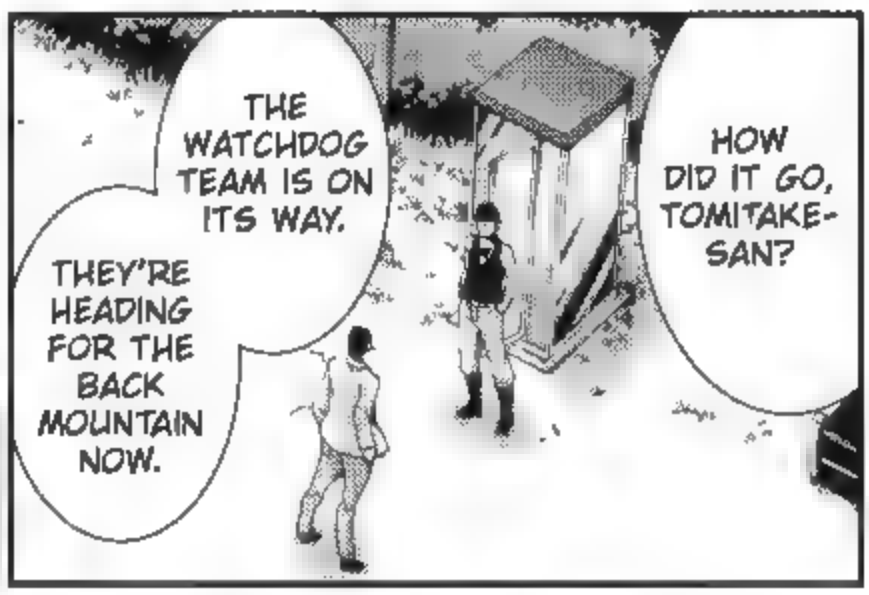
GU (CLENCH)

TAKANO-SAN...

Well done. We couldn't have done this without you!!




IT WON'T TAKE LONG FOR THEM TO PUT THE WILD DOGS DOWN.
THE WATCHDOGS ARE OVER-WHELMINGLY MORE POWERFUL THAN THE WILD DOGS.


THE WATCHDOG TEAM IS ON ITS WAY.
THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE BACK MOUNTAIN NOW.
HOW DID IT GO, TOMITAKE-SAN?

GAA (WHOOSH)
.....
I SEE...

...THEN IT'S OVER...
YES...

WE'VE WON...

ZAAA (WHOOSH)

IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO RAIN.

YEAH... AND THE SUN WAS SHINING SO BRIGHTLY BEFORE.

...I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES I'VE FACED DEATH TODAY.

IT MIGHT BE NICE TO STAND HERE AND LET THE RAIN FALL ON ME.

...AND...

THEY'RE ALL STILL FIGHTING.

...WHAT ABOUT YOU, AKASAKA-SAN?

TOMI-TAKE-SAN...

...WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?

I HAVEN'T FULFILLED MY PROMISE YET.

...RIKA-CHAN IS WAITING FOR ME.

NEITHER HAVE I.

ZA (ZSH)

RIGHT...

I STILL HAVE BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF.

THE CHOPPER'S WAITING. LET'S GO.

YES

TO HINAMIZAWA.

©07th Expansion/passaro/Ushinoto Ichiyoukan.

ABOUT THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC": SOMEBODY HAS TO BE THE VILLAIN...?

ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR: RYUKISHI07

HELLO, I'M RYUKISHI07.

HOW DID YOU LIKE THIS VOLUME OF THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC"?

TAKANO, WOMAN OF MYSTERY. IN THIS STORY, WE ARE GETTING CLOSE TO THE HEART OF HER FEELINGS. TAKANO IS ONE OF THE FEW ADULT WOMEN IN THE *HIGURASHI* SERIES. TO PROVE THE VALIDITY OF HER AND HER GRANDFATHER'S WORK, SHE TRIES TO TAKE HOLD OF RIKA AND ALL OF HINAMIZAWA. OF COURSE, TO RIKA AND HER FRIENDS, TAKANO'S ACTIONS ARE TERRIBLE, AND SHE IS A CONTEMPTIBLE ENEMY. AND BECAUSE TAKANO HAS TAKEN ON THE ROLE OF VILLAIN... THE STORY APPROACHES ITS CONCLUSION.

IS IT TRUE THAT A STORY DOESN'T END UNLESS SOMEONE IS THE VILLAIN? WILL THE STORY NEVER BE RESOLVED UNLESS SOMEONE IS MADE OUT TO BE THE ENEMY? IF THERE'S NO CONFLICT, THEN NO ONE IS THE ENEMY. IT MAY BE VERY DIFFICULT TO FIND SUCH A FRAGMENT. BUT YOU HAVE COME THIS FAR INTO THE WORLD OF *HIGURASHI*; YOU CAN DO IT. WOULD YOU PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR THAT FRAGMENT FOR ME? YOU ARE CAPABLE OF TAKING THE WITCH'S STEP.

I RECOMMEND IT.

I HOPE TO MEET YOU AGAIN IN THE NEXT VOLUME—THE CLIMAX OF THIS STORY.

THANK YOU FOR READING THIS FAR. THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC" IS JUST ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER, AND THE GROWN-UPS REALLY GET TO SHOW THEIR STUFF. THIS IS THE SEVENTH VOLUME OF THAT ARC; THE NEXT VOLUME WILL BE THE LAST. I FEEL LIKE IT TOOK A LONG TIME, AND YET IT ALSO SEEMED TO FLY BY. THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ME THROUGH IT ALL. I HOPE I CAN MAKE THE CLIMAX REALLY EXCITING. I WOULD LOVE IT IF YOU WATCHED OVER ME TO THE VERY END!

KARIN SUZURAGI

-SPECIAL THANKS-

-ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR-
RYUKISHI07-SAMA, BT-SAMA, YATAZAKURA-SAMA, TOKIKA-SAMA, TSUBAKI NARUSE-SAMA, NEKOZAKURA-SAMA, KAKUMU-SAMA

-MY EDITORS-
KOIZUMI-SAMA, KUBOTA-SAMA

-MY STAFF-
JUN AKAGAMI-SAMA, SHIGETOMO TANAKURA-SAMA, NAYU Y-SAMA, NIWAKO-SAMA, NODA-SAMA, TOMOKA FURUTA-SAMA, YF-SAMA

AND YOU!

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC

CHAPTER 33:
SHOWDOWN, AND THEN...

NOW IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA RAIN.
THE SUN WAS SHINING JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO...

.....
DO YOU THINK SHII-CHAN AND THE OTHERS ARE SAFE..?

THERE ARE STILL SIGNS OF ENEMY PRESENCE, SIR.

BUT TAKANO-SAN WON'T BACK DOWN. HER PRIDE WON'T LET HER.
I'D GUESS THE R FORCES ARE ALREADY DOWN BY EIGHTY PERCENT

LET'S TRUST THEY ARE.

AND DO EVERYTHING WE CAN HERE.

WE'VE REACHED THE FINAL STAGES OF OUR OPERATION.

AND THEY'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES RUNNING LOW ON STAMINA.

WE'LL MEET THEM HERE.

ARE ALL OF YOU READY?

ZAA

ZA (ZSH)

ZAAA (WHOOSH)

HAA (HUFF)

ZA

HAA

WE GOT NO HOPE OF WINNIN' THIS ONE.

IN ANY OTHER OPERATION, WE'D BE BEATIN' A SWIFT RETREAT... BUT...

THEY'VE TAKEN BACK TOMITAKE, AND OUR TROOPS ARE SPENT.

THEY'VE ALREADY BROKEN THROUGH OUR BARRI-CADE.

MAJOR, YOU SEE HOW EXHAUSTED WE ARE WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN KEEP PUSHIN' US LIKE THIS?

WHAT? ARE YOU DIS-OBEY-ING ME!?

DO WHAT-EVER IT TAKES TO CORNER THEM AND CAPTURE R!!

WE'RE ALMOST AT R'S BASE!

YOU ARE NOT TO RETREAT UNDER ANY CIRCUM-STANCES!

...I CAN'T TURN MY BACK ON THIS ANY MORE THAN YOU CAN.!

NEVER.

I NEVER HAD AN INTENTION OF DISOBEYIN' YOU HEH-HEH-HEH...

I'M NOT LEAVIN' UNTIL I SEE THE ENEMY COMMAND-ER'S FACE...!

THIS ISN'T OVER UNTIL I SEE THE MASTER-MIND WHO MADE THIS THE WORST DAY OF MY LIFE.

"H"

I'M PHOENIX 1 OF THE WILD DOGS, OKONOGI. YOU FOUGHT ADMIRABLY TODAY.

WH- WHAT DID YOU MEAN YOU'RE DUMPED ?

I WISH TO EXPRESS MY RESPECT TO YOUR LEADER.

...PLEASE TELL ME HIS NAME.

OKO-NOGI, SEIZE HER!!

TH-THERE SHE IS!! IT'S R!

WE MEET AT LAST.

-HEH-HEH. FRIENDS OF R, RIGHT?

!!

THEIR COM-MANDER IS A PUNK KID...?

CLUB PRESIDENT, MION SONOZAKI.

...WERE YOU BEHIND ALL OF THIS? THE RUCKUS AT OKINOMIYA PRECINCT THIS MORNING? THE BATTLE ON THE MOUNTAIN?

YOU GOT ME. YOU REALLY GOT ME.

...HEH-HEH-HEH. HA-HA-HA-HA-HA...

THEY'RE JUST KIDS! AND WE'RE ARMED!!

SU (55K)

I TOLD YOU TO CAPTURE R!

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE WATCHDOGS COME TO PUT US DOWN.

TOMI-TAKE'S PROBABLY MADE IT TO OKINOMIYA AND CON-TACTED TOKYO BY NOW.

ZASHA (CLATTER)

ZASHAN

OKO-NOGI ...?

.....

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

HEH...

HER HIGHNESS THERE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T REALIZE WE'VE LOST.

YOU WIN THIS WAR.

YOU'RE A GENERAL. I'M A GENERAL.

...YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

SU (SHHP)

HE CAN'T JUST CONCEDE.

...HE WAS LEADING THE TROOPS TODAY AND WATCHED AS ALL HIS MEN WERE TAKEN OUT.

...NOT SURRENDERING?

HE'S...

M-MION-SAN. YOU CAN'T FIGHT HIM ONE-ON-ONE! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!

WE SHOULD ALL—

WAIT, SATOKO.

...SO AS THE LEADER OF THE DEFEATED ARMY...

...THE ONLY WAY TO WASH AWAY HIS SINS IS TO SACRIFICE HIMSELF, SIR?

ZAA (WHOOSH)

...HERE I COME.

...THANKS.

ZA-J (ZSH)

DO WHAT-EVER MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER.

ALL RIGHT.

DA DASH

HN!

BYU (WHOOSH)

RRAH !!!

GUI (YANK)

BASHI (DODGE)

ZUZAN (SKID)

WH-WHOA ...

OKO-NOGI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

TAKE THEM! NOW!!

ZA (ZSH)

ビク
BIKU (FLINCH)

QUIET! YOU JUST SHUT UP AND WATCH!!

THIS IS A BATTLE BETWEEN GENER-ALS!!

YOU'RE NOT USIN' STRIKING TECHNIQUES, SO I'M GUESSIN' YOU COME FROM A PRETTY REFINED SCHOOL.

ZA (ZSH)

HEH-HEH-HEH... NOT BAD. YOU MANAGED TO FLIP ME.

OH, REALLY? I'LL HAVE TO TRY THAT NEXT TIME.

NII (SMIRK)

BY THE WAY, ONCE YOU'VE GOTTEN 'IM BY THE ARM, YOU CAN HIT YOUR OPPONENT WITH A KNEE TO THE FACE.

OKONOGI! USE YOUR GUN!!

WOW... MION... SHE'S ACTUALLY BATTLING IT OUT WITH THE ENEMY COMMANDER.

VUN (VWOOM)

HERE GOES!!

GUI (YANK)

BAN (BAM)

GO (WHAM)

GURA (SWAY)

ゴロロン…

GORORORON (RRRUMBLE

HEH-HEH... YOU'RE A FAST LEARNER...

ZA (ZSH)

...A PACK OF MUTTS LIKE THE WILD DOGS...!

YOU SHOULD BE LEADING...

YOU'RE A TRIPLE THREAT.

STRAT-EGY, TACTICS, AND COMBAT SKILLS.

I DON'T WANT TO LEAD SOME SORRY LITTLE SECRET FORCE!

HA! NO THANKS.

...HEH HEH HEH.

YOU COULD RISE TO THE TOP OF THE S.A.S., DELTA, OR SPETSNAZ.

HEH-HEH-HEH. HA-HA-HA-HA...

TRUE, A GIRL LIKE YOU WOULD BE WASTED ON A JAPANESE UNCONVEN-TIONAL WARFARE TEAM.

AH HA HA!

THE S.A.S.? THE DELTA FORCE?

THOSE BORING, OLD ORGANI-ZATIONS COULD NEVER TAME ME!

WH-WHAT?

I'M NOT INTER-ESTED IN COMMAND-ING AN ARMY.

I'M HAPPY JUST LEADING MY OWN LITTLE SEC-TION.

... SECTION, HUH? I SEE...

SO YOU WANT TO BE IN BRITISH INTEL.

HEH. THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT.

WHAT?

OH NO, NO. YOU REALLY DON'T GET IT!

WHAT KIND OF SECTION WOULD SOMEONE OF YOUR CALIBER WANT TO LEAD!?

THEN WHERE DO YOU WANT TO WORK!?

THERE'S ONLY ONE GROUP I WANNA BE IN CHARGE OF!

WHO?

I HOPE WE'RE ON THE FRIENDLY SIDE OF THE END.

BESIDES, MY CLUB IS MADE UP OF THE VERY ELITE—NO ONE CAN BEAT THEM.

AND THAT'S OUR CLUB AT HINAMI-ZAWA SCHOOL!!

TRAP MASTER SATOKO!

OHH!

RENA RYUGU AND HER "ADOW-ABLE" MODE!

MAGI-CIAN OF THE MOUTH KEIICHI MAE-BARA!

AND OUR PROMIS-ING NEW MEMBER, HANYU FURUDE!!

UH

HH!

THE BE-WITCHING MOE GIRL, RIKA-CHAN!!

MEW...

ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD WOULD BE TOTALLY BORING!!

COMPARED TO A TEAM OF ELITES LIKE THEM!!

...HEH-HEH-HEH. HA-HA-HA-HA...

HEH...

I CAN'T WIN...

AGAINST A CLUB LED BY A COMMANDER LIKE YOU...

...I NEVER STOOD A CHANCE.

ゴロロロ…!!!

THEY'RE NOT INVINCIBLE!!

O-OKONOGI... PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!!

PO (DRIP)

PO

KOKYU

KOKYU (CRACK)

I'VE HAD ENOUGH.

THIS IS THE LAST TIME.

I'LL GET PAST YOU WITH MY NEXT ATTACK.

I WILL KILL YOU.

...SO COME AT ME TO KILL... GOT IT?

GU (CLENCH)

ZA (ZSH)

I'LL BE READY WHENEVER YOU'RE DONE SAYING YOUR PRAYERS.

ヒタ

ヒタ

HERE I COME...

RR—

RRRRRAAAGH!

ゴー…

I'LL GIVE YOU EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANT!

A DEFINI-TIVE ENDING !!

I'M THRILLED TO HEAR IT!!

HEH HEH HEH HA HA HA HA HA...

DOOOON
(BOOOOM)

ゴロロロ…
ドドド

SHE SENT HIM FLYING... I DIDN'T EVEN SEE HER TOUCH HIM...

...WH... WHOA...

BATA (CHUFF) TA

TA TA TA

NO... THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE...

BURORORORO (VRRRRRUMMM)

BURORORO

BURORORORO (VVVRRRRRRR)

WHAT ...!?

WH- WHAT THE—?

IT'S THE WATCH-DOG TEAM.

TOMITAKE-SAN CALLED THEM HERE!

DAN (THUMP)

BURORORORO

TCH! LET'S SCRAM !!

DA (DASH)

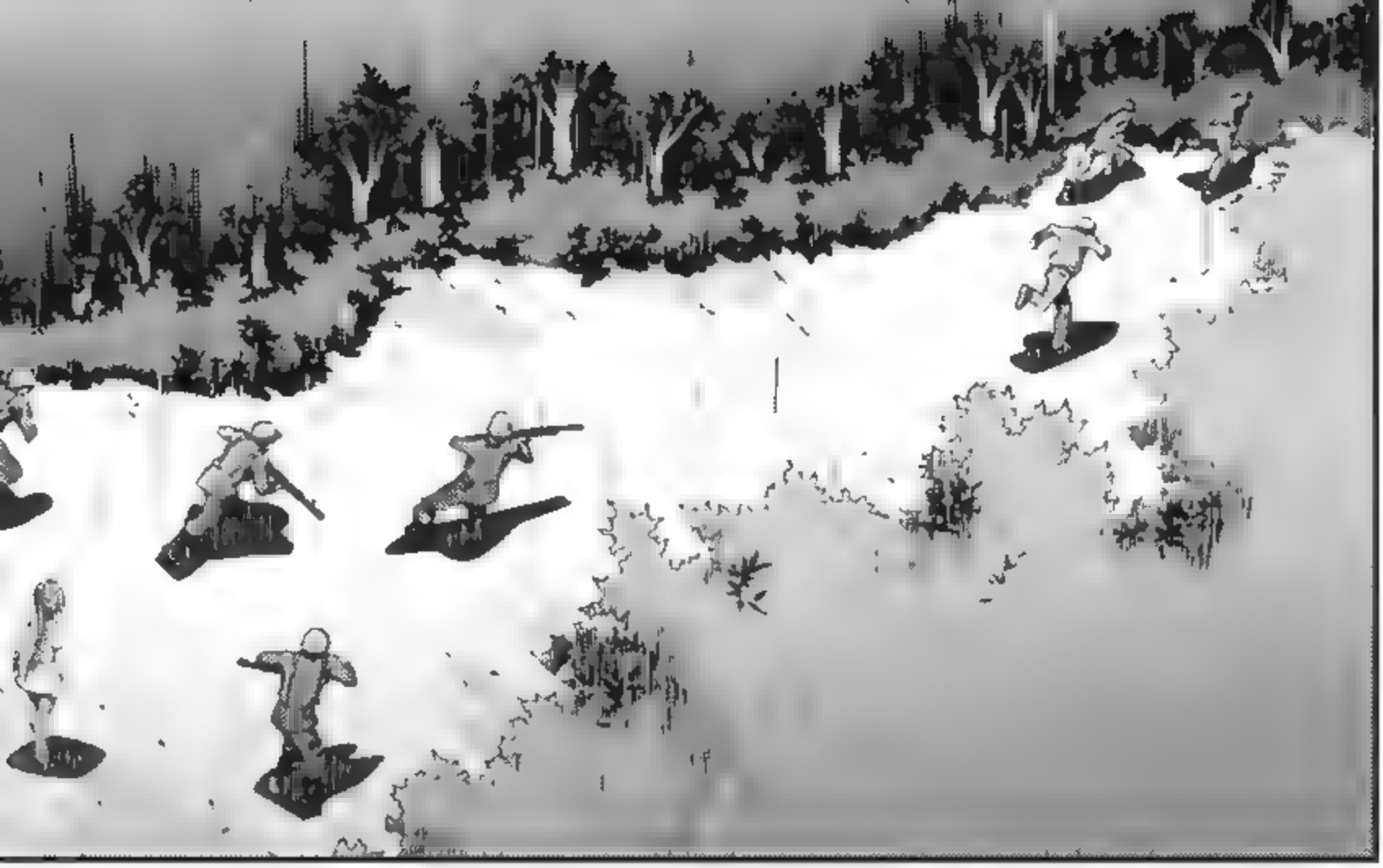
LET GO OF ME!

ZA

ZA (ZSH)

H-

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?



I DON'T KNOW, SIR. THIS IS A FIRST FOR ME TOO...
...DOES THIS MEAN...WE WON...?

RIKA-CHAN! I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE SAFE!

AKA-SA-KAAAA!

AKA-SAKA...

AKA-SAKA...!

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY, SIR...!!

.....

NOW IT'S ALL OVER...

ZA CZSHD

WE'VE WON THE GREATEST VICTORY WE COULD POSSIBLY HOPE FOR.

RIKA-CHAN IS SAFE. WE'RE ALL SAFE.

HUH...?

...I REALLY LIKE OUR CLUB'S PENALTY GAMES.

YOU KNOW, I...

...WE ALL HAVE FUN WITH THE PENALTY GAME, AND *THEN* IT'S ALL OVER.

EVEN WHEN SOMEONE COMES IN DEAD LAST... EVEN AFTER EVERYONE KNOWS WHO THE LOSER IS...

THEY ALMOST KILLED US A MILLION TIMES.

YOU KNOW, WE DEALT WITH SO MUCH DANGER TODAY.

...BUT ...

HE THOUGHT HE COULDN'T WASH AWAY THE SIN OF HIS FAILURE...

...UNLESS I BEAT HIM UP AND KNOCKED IT OUT OF HIM.

BUT THAT OKONOGI GUY—THE LEADER OF THE LOSING TEAM...

...IT'S ALL OVER NOW. THE GAME IS OVER.

BUT THEY CAN'T...JUST MAKE IT ALL RIGHT AGAIN, EVEN WITH A PENALTY GAME...

MION...

>_ ZAAAAAA (FSHHHH)

EVERYTHING'S OKAY NOW, RIKA-CHAN.

TAKANO AND THE OTHERS MAY HAVE RUN, BUT THEY'LL CATCH HER SOON.

THE WATCHDOGS HAVE TAKEN OVER THE IRIE INSTITUTE.

WE'RE ALL UNHURT.

ZAAAAA

AND THE BOY WHO WAS AT THE CLINIC HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.

!!

OH... GOOD...

SATOSHI IS SAFE TOO...

BOY? WHOEVER DO YOU MEAN?

WAS TOMITA-SAN OR OKAMURA-SAN THERE?

HEH HEH...

SATO-KO.

I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU...

GYUU (HUG)

ぎゅう

HE'S UNSTABLE, SO WE CAN'T LET SATOKO SEE HIM.

SATOSHI HASN'T BEEN CURED OF HIS ILLNESS.

WHAT ON EARTH HAP-PENED?

R-RIKA?

HE'LL BRING SATOKO'S NII-NII BACK TO THE VILLAGE FOR HER..

BUT IF ANYONE CAN SAVE SATOSHI, IT'S IRIE.

ZAAAAAAA (FSHHHHH)

THIS IS THE HAPPY ENDING WE'VE LONGED FOR ALL THIS TIME.

WE CAN FINALLY ESCAPE THE CAGE THAT DESTINY HAD US TRAPPED IN FOR SO LONG.

NOW WE CAN FINALLY LIVE PAST THE SUMMER OF 1983.

...GO ON, TELL ME HOW YOU FEEL...

...HANYU...

EH...?

HANYU... WHERE ARE YOU...?

CHAPTER 34: GODS AND MEN

ZAAAAA (FSHHHH)

HAVE YOU SEEN HANYU, SIR?

WHAT'S WRONG, RIKA-CHAN?

WHERE ARE YOU...?

HANYU?

BUT SHE DISAP-PEARED, SIR...

ZAAAAA

SHE WAS JUST HERE.

HAA (HUFF)

HAA...

ZAAAAA

BA (SHOVE)

LET ME GO!!

I DEMAND AN EXPLA-NATION!

WHAT IS THE MEAN-ING OF THIS!?

WHY SHOULD WE HAVE TO RUN!?

MAJOR TAKANO ...

WHAT? ...WHAT?

ブロロロロ...

BLRORORORORORO (WWRRRRMMM)

Put down your weapons and surrender immedi-ately!!

Attention Irie Clinic staff and members of the Wild Dogs!

AND TOKYO HAS DIS-COVERED OUR PLOT.

FIRST LIEUTENANT TOMITAKE HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN FROM THE CLINIC.

I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT...

NO...

THE WILD DOGS ARE JUST A COUNTER-ESPIONAGE FORCE. WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THEM.

THE WATCHDOGS ARE A REAL COMBAT FORCE.

THAT HELICOPTER BELONGS TO A WATCHDOG TEAM SENT FROM TOKYO.

...WE'VE LOST.

HHアアアア!!!

ZAAAAAA FSHHHH

WHAT? DON'T SAY THAT...

R IS ALIVE...

WE CAN STILL CARRY OUT OPERATION APOCA-LYPSE.

A LOT OF PEOPLE BET ON THAT SCRAP-BOOK.

AND THEY LOST.

ALL ANYONE CARED ABOUT WAS WHETHER OR NOT THE RESEARCH COULD BE USED FOR POLITICAL ACTION.

"YORO" (SWAY)

30

WHA...?

DON'T...DON'T MOCK MY RESEARCH... DON'T MOCK MY GRANDPA...

(DON, THUMP)

N... NO...

THIS RESEARCH COULD CHANGE THE FUTURE OF MAN-KIND...!!

IT'S THE TRUTH! GRANDPA RE-SEARCHED IT—I RE-SEARCHED IT! IT'S TRUE!

HINAMI-ZAWA SYN-DROME ISN'T BOGUS!

YOUR ROLE WAS TO TAKE COMPLEX RESEARCH MATERIAL, FULL OF BIG WORDS AND MEDICAL JARGON AND WRITTEN BY SOME GREAT SCHOLAR...

...AND USE IT AS A SMOKE SCREEN ON A BUNCH OF JERKS WHO COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IT SAID.

C...CALL NOMURA-SAN RIGHT NOW! WE CAN RECOUP OUR LOSSES!

NOMURA-SAN WILL SEND A TEAM AT LEAST AS POWER-FUL AS THE WATCH-DOGS!

I CAN'T LOSE NOW! I HAVE TO PROVE MY RESEARCH WAS RIGHT!

...YOUR JOB, MAJOR, WAS TO KEEP THAT SCRAPBOOK YOU'RE HOLDING...

...AND KEEP BUILDING ON IT UNTIL IT LOOKED BELIEVABLE.

IT NEVER MAT-TERED.

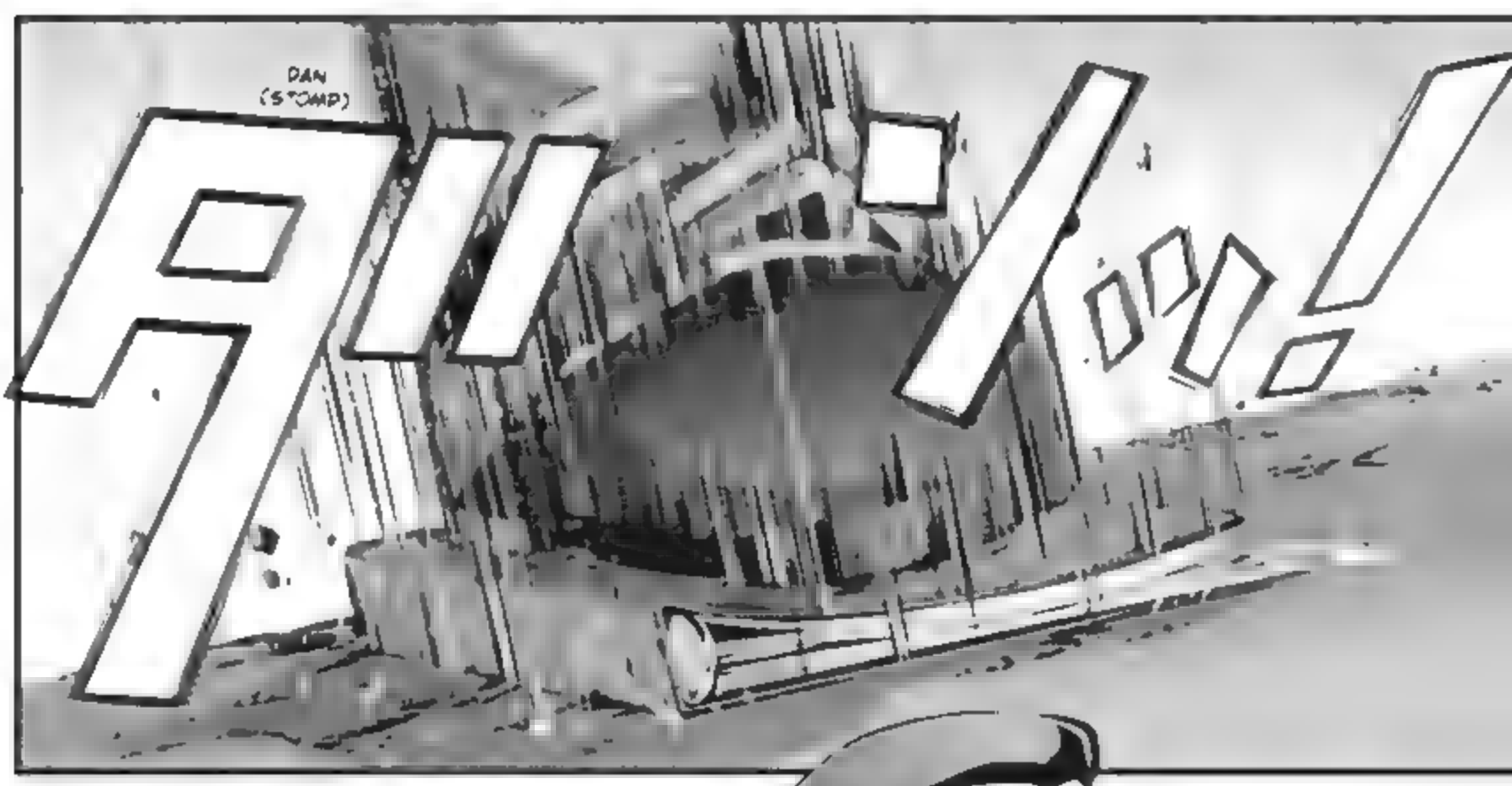
WHETHER THE RESEARCH IS REAL OR BOGUS—

HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ...?

BASA
(WAP

DASHA
(WHAP

WH-
WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING
!?
AHH
...!!
BA
DUNGE


DAN
(STOMP)

...!!

MOVE YOUR FOOT! MOVE IT!!

S-STEP ASIDE!!

YOU CAN'T BETRAY YOUR CLIENT!!

I PAID YOU A HUN-DRED MILLION YEN!

...ABOUT YOUR RESEARCH ANYMORE.

I TOLD YOU, NOBODY GIVES A DAMN...

TH... THEN ...!

WE WOULD NEVER BETRAY HER AT A TIME LIKE THIS.

MAJOR... THE WILD DOGS ARE LOYAL TO THEIR MASTER.

...EH...?

NOMURA-SAN FROM TOKYO BOUGHT US AGES AGO.

...WE'VE BEEN ANSWERING TO A DIFFERENT MASTER.

FOR A LONG TIME NOW...

ZAAAAA (FSHHHH)

THE DAMAGE CONTROL PLAN IS ALREADY IN PLACE.

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN PREPARED IN CASE OPERATION APOCALYPSE FAILED.

I NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THAT...

YOU'RE LYING...

AND YOUR CODE NAME WAS "BABY BIRD," RIGHT?

NOMURA-SAN'S CODE NAME IS "CUCKOO."

...AND, WELL, USUALLY...

...THE CHICKS CAN'T FLY, SO THEY SQUIRM AROUND ON THE GROUND.

A CUCKOO LAYS HER EGGS IN ANOTHER BIRD'S NEST.

...DO YOU KNOW WHERE A CUCKOO LAYS HER EGGS?

...IT TAKES OVER BY PUSHING THE OTHER CHICKS OUT OF THE NEST.

WHEN THE CUCKOO HATCHES ...

IN OTHER WORDS, THEY DIE.

THEY GET EATEN BY STRAY OR WILD DOGS.

NO...

...N...

OKONOGI WAS NEVER VERY FRIENDLY, BUT I COULD RELY ON HIM...

I THOUGHT I HAD GAINED ALLIES BY BUYING OFF THE WILD DOGS.

BUT BEFORE I HAD ANY IDEA...

...MY NEST HAD BEEN TAKEN OVER...?

...AND WE WILD DOGS THINK YOU CAN DO FOR US.

...THAT OUR CLIENT IN TOKYO...

...FORTUNATELY, THERE IS SOMETHING...

SU (SSK)

WHAT COULD I POSSIBLY DO NOW...?

WH... WHAT ...?

WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO BLOW YOUR BRAINS OUT?

GOTON (CLANG)

MAJOR.

...WHAT IS THIS...?

WHA ...?

EH...?

ZAAAAA (FSHHH)

IF YOU DO US THE FAVOR OF DYING...

...THEN OUR CLIENT CAN WRAP UP EVERYTHING NICELY BY SAYIN' THAT WHAT HAPPENED—OR DIDN'T HAPPEN—WAS YOUR FAULT.

YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT THE LIZARD'S TAIL, RIGHT?

I COULD... I C-COULD NEVER...

D-D... DON'T BE STUPID...

IT WAS ONLY OUT OF COURTESY TO YOU THAT I GAVE YOU THE OPTION OF DOIN' IT YOURSELF.

SU (SSK)

WELL, IT'S FINE IF YOU CAN'T.

HERE...?

YOU...YOU WANT ME TO DIE...?

JAKI
(KA-CLICK)

HNN...

YOUR BELOVED SCRAP-BOOK.

"I (SU (SHP)

HERE.

THAT WILL BE THE OFFICIAL STORY.

"WE TRIED TO CONVINCE HER TO SURRENDER, BUT SHE STUBBORNLY REFUSED AND RE-SISTED.

"A GUNFIGHT BROKE OUT, AND WE WERE FORCED TO SHOOT HER."

AAAAA

HOLD THAT IN YOUR LEFT HAND ...

...AND PICK UP THE GUN WITH YOUR RIGHT.

AH...

YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT...?

N— NO...

I WAS BEING MANIPU-LATED.

EVERY-THING HAS GONE ACCORD-ING TO TOKYO'S SCRIPT.

THIS IS...

...FROM THE DAY HE RESCUED ME TILL TODAY.

I DID EVERYTHING I COULD FOR GRANDPA...

THERE IS NOTHING LEFT FOR MIYO TAKANO...

...THE TIME FOR ME TO GO BACK TO THE DARKNESS OF THAT ORPHAN-AGE.

NOW IS THE TIME...

...HAS BEEN A FARCE.

BUT MY ENTIRE LIFE...

MOST PEOPLE PUT THE GUN IN THEIR MOUTHS.

THEY SAY THE SKULL IS SUR-PRISINGLY DENSE.

YOU ONLY GOT ONE BULLET, SO AIM CARE-FULLY.

カタ…

KATA

カタ…

KATA (SHAKE)

PUT IT IN YOUR MOUTH.

...GO ON, RAISE THE GUN.

NN...
NGH...

...NGH!

UUUNH ...!

KACHI (CLICK)

カチッ

AND DIE, PLEASE.

NOW PULL THE TRIGGER.

BAAN (BANG)

A GUN-SHOT...?

HA (GASP)

ZAAAAA (FSHHH)

ZAN

ZAN (SLOSH)

DON'T MOVE!!

WHAT WAS THAT SHOT!?

SHE POINTED A GUN AT ME.

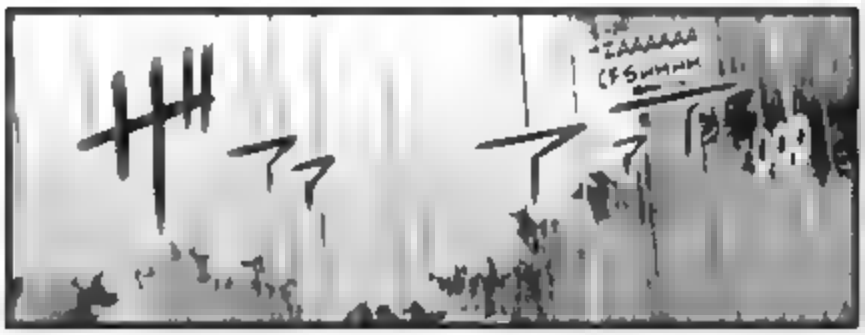
THE DISCHARGE YOU HEARD WAS MY WARNING SHOT.

MAJOR TAKANO WAS WITH US, BUT SHE WAS FURIOUS. SHE STUBBORNLY REFUSED TO SURRENDER.

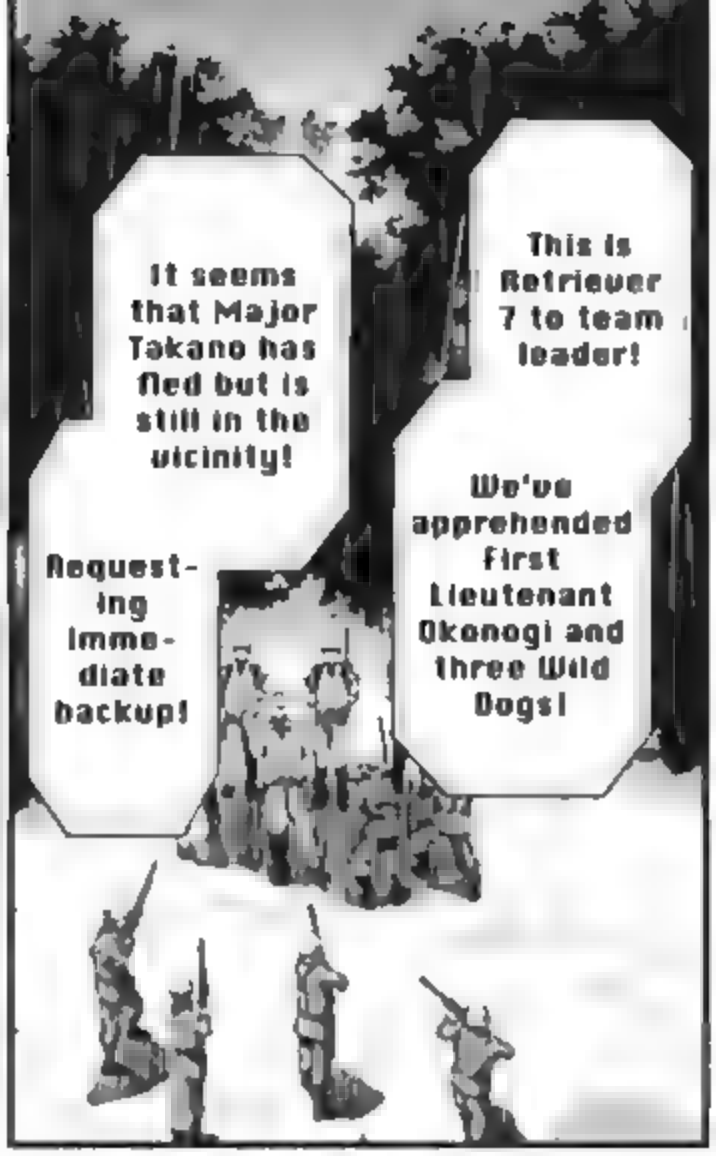
WELL, HELLO, WATCHDOGS. I SHOULDA KNOWN IT WOULDN'T TAKE YOU LONG. HEH-HEH-HEH...

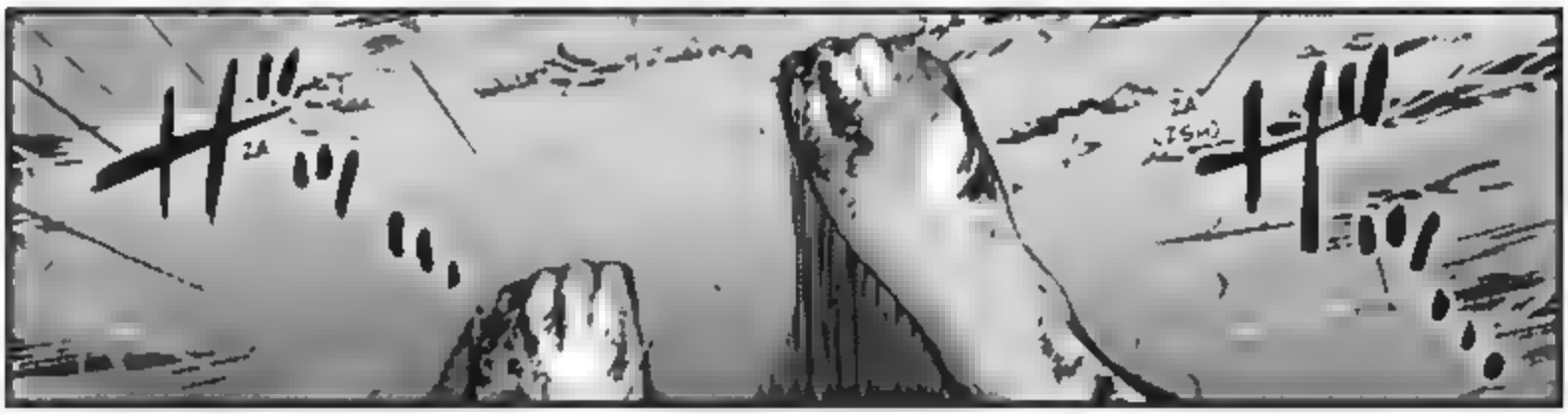
IS MAJOR TAKANO ARMED...!?

UNFORTU-NATELY, IT DIDN'T WORK. SHE RAN OFF INTO THE MOUNTAINS.



HUFF!
HEF.
HUFF.


It seems that Major Takano has fled but is still in the vicinity!
This is Retriever 7 to team leader!
Request-ing imme-diate backup!
We've apprehended First Lieutenant Okonogi and three Wild Dogs!



THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME... THIS HAS HAPPENED TO ME...
HUFF.
HUFF!
HUFF..

IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME I'VE RUN BAREFOOT EITHER...

RUNNING ALL ALONE THROUGH THE RAIN.

UUUNH ...

NGH...

IT'S JUST LIKE WHEN I WAS A GIRL...

ZAZA (SKSH)

AHH!!

BURORORORORO (VVVRRRRRRRR)

UNH...

NNNH...

ゴゴゴゴ

ゴゴゴゴ

The Wild Dogs have surrendered!

Major Takano! Put down your weapon and turn yourself in!

GU (GRIT)

NNGH...

You have nowhere to run.

You have no allies to turn to.

ZUSHI (SHFF)

DEATH IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN ATONE.

I...HAVE NO CHOICE... I HAVE TO DO IT...

...I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO PAY FOR ALL OF THEM...

I KNOW...

...I'VE COMMITTED TOO MANY CRIMES...

I CAN'T GO BACK TO THAT DAY...

KATA

KATA (SHAKE)

I DON'T WANT TO, GRANDPA ...

NO...

DOES THAT MEAN DEATH IS THE ONLY WAY FOR ME TO ATONE?

BUT DOES THAT MEAN ...

POTA (DRIP)

POTA

I DON'T WANT TO...

I DON'T WANT TO DIE...

I DON'T WANT TO DIE...

ZAAAAA (FSHHH)

NGH...

WAAAH...

HA (GASP)

CHILD OF MAN.

ZAAAAA

HNNGH...

HIC

ZAAAA (FSHHHH)
Y...
...YOU...

LONG TIME NO SEE...

I WONDERED WHO WOULD STILL BE TALKING TO ME.

YOU HAVE ENDURED COUNTLESS TRIALS. DO YOU STILL SEEK THE SEAT OF GOD-HOOD?

CHILD OF MAN.

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE I WENT TO THE SHRINE GROUNDS TO DECLARE WAR...

I'VE LOST THIS GAME.

IT'S ALL OVER FOR ME...

WHAT ...?

I WILL NOW SHOW YOU THE PATH TO GOD-HOOD.

HEAR ME, CHILD OF MAN.

THE SEAT OF GOD-HOOD...? I'LL NEVER REACH IT...

THIS IS THE FATE OF A LOWLY, PITIFUL HUMAN WHO DARED TO CHALLENGE A GOD...

USE THE IRON FIRE IN YOUR RIGHT HAND...

...AND BID FAREWELL TO YOUR LIFE.

WHA...?

ARE YOU TELLING ME TO SHOOT MYSELF IN THE HEAD...?

CHA (CHAK)

SOMETHING SO SIMPLE WOULD TURN ME INTO A GOD...?

A BODY OF FLESH WILL BE UNNECES-SARY IN THE REALM OF THE GODS.

YOU MUST NOT SEEK ACCEPTANCE FROM MEN WHILE YOU REMAIN IN THAT FORM.

THEN WHAT HAVE I BEEN DOING UNTIL NOW?

WHAT HAVE I BEEN BUILDING UP TO ALL THIS TIME...?

BA (LUNGE)

YOU HAVE SHOULDERED THE BURDEN OF MANY HUMANS' SINS.

WH... WHAT ...?

GIRI (GRIT)

WHY, YOU LITTLE...

YOUR COURAGE WILL BE LAUDED, AND YOU WILL BE ALLOWED A SEAT IN THE LOWEST PANTHEON.

THE SINS OF MANY WILL BE CLEANSED WHEN YOU OFFER YOURSELF AS SACRIFICE.

WHY DO YOU OPPOSE THE IDEA?

...JUST AS MY DAUGHTER STRUCK ME DOWN AS A SACRIFICE LONG, LONG AGO.

TO ENJOY PEACE IN THE WORLD OF MEN, EACH IMPURITY REQUIRES A SACRIFICE...

ARE YOU TELLING ME TO BE THE LIZARD'S TAIL!? YOU'RE TELLING ME TO DIE!?

NO! I WOULD NEVER DO THAT!!

WAS THAT NOT BECAUSE YOU UNDERSTOOD THIS PRINCIPLE?

YOU SOUGHT TO SACRIFICE A LITTLE GIRL TO OBTAIN THE FUTURE YOU DESIRED.

YOU SHALL REGRET YOUR ARROGANCE IN SEEKING GODHOOD.

IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND, THEN YOU ARE INDEED MERELY HUMAN.

.....

STOP IT! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!!

I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

I ONLY WANTED SOMEONE TO FORGIVE ME, TO TELL ME THAT'S IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR ME TO LIVE.

I'M GLAD I'M HUMAN...

I DO REGRET IT...

I DON'T WANT TO BE THAT KIND OF GOD...

...WHY DID IT TURN OUT LIKE THIS...?

SO WHY...

WHY!?

WHY DOES ANYONE HAVE TO TAKE THE BLAME !!?

HOW WILL YOU PAY FOR WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?

...THEN HOW WILL YOU CLEANSE THE IMPURITIES THAT YOU HAVE BROUGHT TO THIS WORLD?

ZAAAAA (FSHHH)

UUU...

UNH...!

NGH...

ZAAAAA

アアア...

HOW DID I FALL OUT OF THAT WORLD...?

NO ONE FORCED ANYONE ELSE TO TAKE THE JOKER...

THAT NEVER HAPPENED WHEN MOM AND DAD AND GRANDPA WERE ALIVE!

WE WERE ALL HAPPY TOGETHER...

DEEP DOWN, I KNEW...

I KNEW...

IT WASN'T UNTIL AFTER I CROSSED THE LINE INTO THE POINT OF NO RETURN THAT I STARTED TO REGRET IT.

BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO ADMIT IT.

...THAT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, I HAD PUT TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE ON THE WRONG THING.

THAT IS HOW THE WORLD OF MEN CLEANSES IMPURITIES.

THE WORLD OF MEN WILL DEMAND ATONEMENT FOR YOUR CRIMES.

...FOR MY SINS...

NOW I'M PAYING THE PRICE...

HOWEVER...

FUWA (FWSH)

フ...

...I AM NOT OF MEN.

ONE WHO SURPASSES HUMANITY.

ONE WHO REPLACES THE PEACE THAT IS LACKING.

SAAAAA FSHHH

I AM ONE WHO FORGIVES THE SINS OF MEN.

I FORGIVE YOU.

MIYOKO TANASHI.

...I WISHED TO ABDICATE MY THRONE.

AFTER MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEARS OF AGONY...

I ASSUMED THE SEAT OF GODHOOD TO PUT AN END TO THAT LAW.

DEMANDING SACRIFICE FOR CLEANSING IMPURITIES IS NOT THE LAW OF MAN.

IT IS THE LAW OF DEMONS.

AND...

...AFTER A THOUSAND-YEAR JOURNEY...

I WANTED TO SEE A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE COULD BE FRIENDS WITHOUT NEEDING A GOD TO ACT AS MEDIATOR.

...I SAW THAT FRAG-MENT AT LAST.

NOW, CHILD OF MAN.

...I FORGIVE YOUR SINS.

IN MY OWN NAME...

ZAAAA (FSHHH)

HANYU!

はっ

HA (GASP)

ZAAAA

WAS I DREAM-ING...?

WHAT JUST HAP-PENED ...?

Y...

... YOU'RE ...

DON'T MAKE A SOUND.

CHA CHAK

HANYU-CHAAAN! ANSWER US!

(KI GLARE)

.....

YOU... YOU'RE ONE OF THEIR FRIENDS, AREN'T YOU?

WHEN DID YOU GET HERE...?

...AH...!

I ONLY HAVE ONE BULLET. WHAT DO I DO...!?

THE MOUNTAIN IS SURROUNDED BY WATCHDOGS.

SHOULD I TAKE HER HOSTAGE AND TRY TO GET PAST THEM?

TAKANO ...!!

D-DON'T DO IT, MII-CHAN...!

ZA (ZSH)

NOW, MION-CHAN.

STEP FORWARD. UNLESS YOU WANT SOMEONE ELSE TO GET SHOT.

YOU RUINED EVERY-THING...

NO ONE WILL EVER FORGIVE ME...

...RIGHT AT THE VERY END, I'M GIVEN ONE LAST CHANCE TO FIGHT BACK.

JAKI (KA-CLICK)

OR MAYBE I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN VERY LUCKY.

REALLY... MY ENTIRE LIFE... I'VE NEVER HAD ANY LUCK...

NO...

DAMMIT ...

HEE HEE HEE.

BUT I WANT TO DELIVER SOME PAYBACK AT LEAST.

NGH ...!

BUT DOESN'T IT OCCUR TO YOU THAT MY ONE SHOT MIGHT KILL MION-CHAN?

...THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU TALK BIG, BUT THE WATCHDOGS ALREADY TOLD US YOU ONLY HAVE ONE SHOT!

...BUT YOU'D BETTER HIT ME.

GO AHEAD AND SHOOT.

SHHK SHHK

STAY BEHIND ME.

ZA (ZSH)

NOBODY MOVE... OKAY?

...I'LL MAKE SURE YOU GET A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH!!

BECAUSE IF YOU HIT ANY OF MY FRIENDS...

SHE'S REALLY GOING TO SHOOT...!

OH NO... TAKANO-SAN IS DEAD SERIOUS...

I'M YOUR CLUB PRESIDENT. NOTHING MAKES ME HAPPIER THAN STANDING IN FRONT OF YOU AND PROTECTING YOU.

NOBODY MOVE.

MII...!

MION-SAN...

HEE HEE HEE.

OOH, I'M SCAR-ED.

HA-HA... THEN I WANT YOU TO BUILD A SHRINE IN THE CLUB LOCKER AND WORSHIP ME AS YOUR WAR HERO.

IF...SHE HITS ANY VITALS...

YOU'RE THE NEXT PRESIDENT, KEI-CHAN.

IF THE WORST SHOULD HAPPEN, I'M COUNTING ON ALL OF YOU!

I'M SURPRISED... YOU'RE VERY BRAVE...

MION...!

YOU ALL PLAY A LOT OF GAMES, DON'T YOU?

...DO YOU EVER PLAY OLD MAID?

NOPE.

WE ONLY PLAY OLD GEEZER.

THE RULES ARE ALMOST THE SAME.

...IN THE WORLD OF MEN, SINS ARE LIKE A GAME OF OLD MAID.

EVERYONE TRIES TO HAND OFF THE JOKER TO SOMEONE ELSE.

IT'S A GAME WHERE ONE PERSON ENDS UP THE LOSER—THE SACRIFICE.

I HAVE THE OLD MAID.

THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO TAKE IT FROM ME.

.....!!

BRAVE MION.

YOUR COURAGE IS ENOUGH.

ZA (ZISH)

IF THE MORTAL WORLD DICTATES THAT THE JOKER MUST ALWAYS BE FORCED UPON SOME-ONE...

IT'S UNFAIR, JUST LIKE THE WORLD WE LIVE IN.

AND SO...

...I WILL RETALIATE BY SHOOTING YOU.

IT WAS TRULY A TREAT TO STOP WATCHING FROM A DISTANCE AND JOIN IN.

...THEN MY ROLE IS TO ACCEPT THAT CARD.

I'M GLAD I COULD BE A PART OF YOUR CLUB

ERIKA, THIS WORLD WAS A LOT OF FUN, SIR.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HANYU

HANYU! GET BACK! IT'S DANGEROUS!

WHA ...!?

HANYU ...!

THANK YOU. I'VE ENJOYED MYSELF ENOUGH.

THE HAPPINESS WAS ALMOST TOO MUCH FOR A GOD.

I WILL ACCEPT THEM.

FIRE THE SINS THAT, IN THE WORLD OF MEN, MUST BE FORCED UPON SOME-ONE.

NOW FIRE, CHILD OF MAN.

AS I TOLD YOU EARLIER, I FORGIVE YOU.

チャキ

CHAK
KA-CLICK

YOU SAY... YOU WILL ACCEPT THEM...?

HEH... HEH HEH...

I GET IT, I GET IT

ALL RIGHT... I UNDER-STAND...

IN THAT CASE..

...YOU CAN BE THE ONE...

OOOOO"
(WHOOSH)

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC

BAN (BANG)

YOU CAN BE THE ONE TO DIE !!!

HA-NYU!!

VUN (WHAM)

FINAL CHAPTER: AN IDEAL WORLD

GUNYARI (SQUIIISH)

IT'S ALL RIGHT, SIR.

EVEN IN HUMAN FORM, I CAN MANAGE THIS MUCH.

...H-HANYU ...!

YOU CAN'T PUSH THE BULLET BACK! THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!

WHA... WHAT DID YOU DO...?

Y... YOU...

GUGU (PRESS)

YOU MON-STER!

BARIN SHATTERD

FINAL CHAPTER: AN IDEAL WORLD

WE...
!

HEE HEE HEE.

WE CAN'T STOP THE BULLET!
TIME HAS STOPPED HERE. WE CAN'T MOVE...

IT HAPPENED IN THE MEMORIES... MEMORIES THAT WE CAN'T POSSIBLY HAVE.
...WE'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE...

...AND YOU WILL DIE, WRITHING IN AGONY!

WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH, THE BULLET WILL PIERCE YOUR CHEST

PLEASE, TAKE YOUR TIME! ENJOY WATCHING YOUR LIFE FLASH BEFORE YOUR EYES!

AH-HA-HA! YOU'RE GOING TO DIE! YOU ARE ABSO-LUTELY GOING TO DIE!

NOW... EVERYTHING WILL BE RESOLVED.

...I AM PREPARED FOR THIS.

WHEN I MADE SUCH A STUPID MISTAKE...

JUST LIKE WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE...

ALL THE ORIGINAL PLAYERS ONSTAGE, ALIVE AND WELL.

I WON'T NEVER EXPECTED TO BEGIN

FUWA (FWSH)

GOOD-BYE... MY DEAR, DEAR FRIENDS...

THIS IS FOR THE BEST...

WE LEARNED TOGETHER, DIDN'T WE?

IT'S FUNNY THAT THAT SURPRISES YOU.

...BUT YOU CAN? RIKA, OF THE WORLD OF MAN...?

EVEN I CAN'T MOVE...

WHA... HOW...?

WE LEARNED THAT IF WE ALL BELIEVE...

...IF EVERYONE WISHES FOR IT, A MIRACLE WILL HAPPEN.

.....!

ガ…
(GU...)

I WISHED FOR A WORLD WHERE IT DOESN'T HIT ANYONE, WHERE NO ONE GETS HURT.

A WORLD WHERE TAKANO DOESN'T SHOOT ANYONE AND DOESN'T GET HURT HERSELF.

"IF THAT BULLET HAS TO HIT SOMEONE, PLEASE LET IT BE ME."

EVERYONE HERE IS THINKING THE SAME THING.

I WISHED THAT IT WOULDN'T HIT ANYONE.

BUT I WISHED FOR EVEN MORE.

SW (SHP)

RIKA...

LET ME USE THIS ONE LAST MIRACLE.

I AM THE REINCARNATION OF OYASHIRO-SAMA, AFTER ALL.

WE NEVER PLAY OLD MAID. WE ONLY PLAY OLD GEEZER.

DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT MION SAID?

I KNEW YOU AND TAKANO WEREN'T REALLY LISTENING.

THEN YOU ADD THE ELEMENT OF DISCORD, THE JOKER, AND TRY TO STICK ONE OF THE OTHER PLAYERS WITH IT.

IN OLD MAID, YOU HAVE FIFTY-TWO CARDS, ALL IN HARMONY WITH EACH OTHER.

...AND LEAVE SOMEONE HOLDING THE EXTRA DISCORDANT FRAGMENT.

BUT IN OLD GEEZER, YOU REMOVE ONE OF THE CARDS FROM THE HARMONIOUS FIFTY-TWO CARD WORLD.

SU (SSK)

IN OLD GEEZER, IF YOU RETURN THE MISSING CARD TO THE DECK, THERE'S NO LOSER.

IN BOTH GAMES, YOU TRY TO PUSH A CARD ONTO THE OTHER PLAYERS, BUT THE SIGNIFICANCE BEHIND IT IS DIFFERENT

THEY SEEM LIKE THE SAME GAME, BUT THEY'RE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.

THAT MISSING CARD...

...IS YOU, HANYU.

WHEN YOU JOINED THIS WORLD, THERE WERE NO MORE LOSERS.

IN THIS WORLD— A WORLD THAT WOULD NEVER END UNTIL SOMEONE WAS FORCED TO TAKE ALL THE SINS—YOU WERE THE MISSING CARD.

...RIKA...

AFTER A THOUSAND YEARS SEARCHING FOR A MIRACLE, THAT IS THE ANSWER THAT I, RIKA FURUDE, HAVE COME TO.

WE DON'T NEED ANY LOSERS IN THIS WORLD.

GU (CLENCH)

THAT'S RIGHT...

IF WE MADE UP FOR THE LOST CARD BY BELIEVING IN EACH OTHER AND HELPING EACH OTHER... WE WOULD HAVE A COMPLETE DECK OF FIFTY-TWO CARDS...
A COMPLETE WORLD.. ONE WITH NO LOSERS.
THE ANSWER WAS ALREADY THERE, IN THAT VERY FIRST GAME WE PLAYED IN MION'S CLUB.
THERE WAS ALWAYS A LOSER IN EACH SCENARIO BECAUSE WE ALWAYS PLAYED WITH A DECK THAT WAS MISSING A CARD

A COMPLETE WORLD WHERE NO ONE GETS LEFT OUT.

A WORLD WHERE WE CAN ALL JOIN HANDS AND OUR SINS CAN BE FORGIVEN.

AND NO ONE NEEDS TO CRY UNDER THE BURDEN OF SIN.

WHERE NO ONE NEEDS TO STAND OUTSIDE THE CIRCLE, WISTFULLY LOOKING ON.

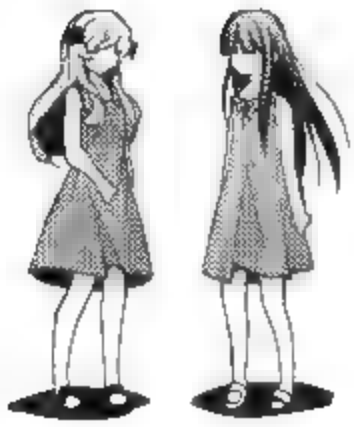
AS LONG AS PEOPLE LIVE, SIN WILL BE AS PREVALENT AND PERVASIVE AS DIRT.

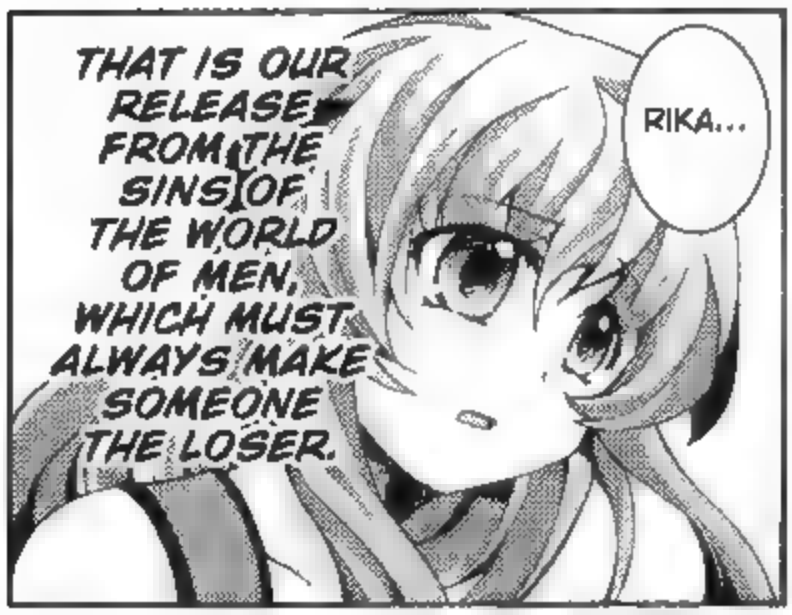
...AND THEN LET'S FORGIVE THEM— ALL OF US TOGETHER.

LET'S ACCEPT THOSE CRIMES...

...BUT FORGIVING THOSE SINS.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT ISN'T TRYING TO PREVENT THE SINS FROM HAPPENING...




THAT IS OUR RELEASE FROM THE SINS OF THE WORLD OF MEN, WHICH MUST ALWAYS MAKE SOMEONE THE LOSER.
RIKA...

THAT IS THE COMPLETE WORLD THAT RIKA FURUDE EVENTUALLY FOUND.

RIKA MAY BE ONLY HUMAN, BUT SHE MADE IT. AFTER A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS AMOUNT OF TIME...SHE FINALLY MADE IT.

.....

IF THERE IS SUCH A WORLD...

...THEN THAT'S THE WORLD I WANT TO BE IN.

はっ

ドキン

ぎゅっ

...

MOTHER.
WELCOME
HOME.

POTA (DRIP)

...

...AT THIS CLOSE RANGE ...!?

M-ME...? MISS...?

Y-YOU MISSED ...!

HEH... HEH HEH...

HEH HEH HEH...

...P-PATHETIC.

IT'S... A MIRA-CLE...

SHE DIDN'T HIT ANYONE...

WE FOUND HER!

AR-REST HER!

AHH ...!

ZA

ZA

ZA

ZSH

EEK!!

ZA (SKID)

GU (TRIP)

GUCHA (SPLAT)

IT'S GRAND-PA'S... PRE-CIOUS...

I... I HAVE TO PICK IT UP...

AH...

CALL HQ! WE'VE APPRE-HENDED THE SUS-PECT!

ZA

ZA (ZSH)

THAT'S GRANDPA'S RESEARCH...

DON'T STEP ON IT... DON'T STEP ON IT...

NO... GRAND-PA... GRAND-PA...

GLU (YANK)

ON YOUR FEET! DON'T TRY TO RE-SIST!

STOP!

WE WILL BE TAKING HER INTO CUSTODY!!

FIRST LIEUTEN-ANT TOMI-TAKE, INVESTI-GATIONS DIVISION!

TAKE A GOOD LOOK!

LOOK AT HER! CAN'T YOU SEE!?

...WE HAVE ORDERS FROM SENIOR HQ TO TAKE HER TO TOKYO IMMEDI-ATELY.

B-BUT FIRST LIEUTEN-ANT...

AH...

B-BUT THE MAJOR HAS BEEN INOCULATING HERSELF AT THE IRIE INSTITUTE!

SHE SHOULD BE IMMUNE...

I SUSPECT SHE'S SUFFERING FROM AN ADVANCED CASE OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME!!

SHE'S COVERED IN FINGERNAIL SCRATCHES!

WE STILL CAN'T GUARANTEE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT EFFECTIVENESS FROM THAT VACCINE!

IS THIS ALL...

...OR IF SOMEONE WAS USING THE DELIRIUM AND DERANGEMENT BROUGHT ON BY HER DISEASE!

...THEN WE NEED TO JUDGE CAREFULLY WHETHER THESE INCIDENTS WERE DONE OF HER OWN WILL...

IF SHE'S REACHED THE FINAL STAGES...

.....

JIROU-SAN...

AT THIS STAGE, NO ONE CAN SAY FOR SURE!

...THE MAJOR'S CRIME OR THE CRIME OF HER SICK-NESS!?

SU (SUP)

I CAME BACK TO GET YOU.

SORRY I'M LATE...

JIROU-SAN...

...I CAN'T...

PORO (DRIP)

SO (SLOWLY)

...OR THE WEIGHT OF MY SINS... WILL...

.....

I SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO LIVE...

I HAVE TO DIE...

I'VE BEEN COVERED BY THE FILTH OF MY CRIMES...

BORO

BORO (DRIBBLE)

BORO

BORO

YOUR CRIMES MIGHT BE PRETTY SEVERE.

YOU'RE RIGHT...

GYU (SQUEEZE)

きゃっ

BUT THAT'S OKAY.

...I'LL BE WITH YOU.

YES. I FORGIVE YOU.
BUT YOU'RE TELLING ME I CAN LIVE...?
EVERYONE TELLS ME THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE RESOLVED IF I DIE.
...I-IT'S OKAY... FOR ME TO LIVE...?
WE'LL ATONE FOR THEM TOGETHER. AND TOGETHER WE'LL GET MIYOKO TANASHI BACK.
AND UNTIL WE DO, I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOUR SIDE.

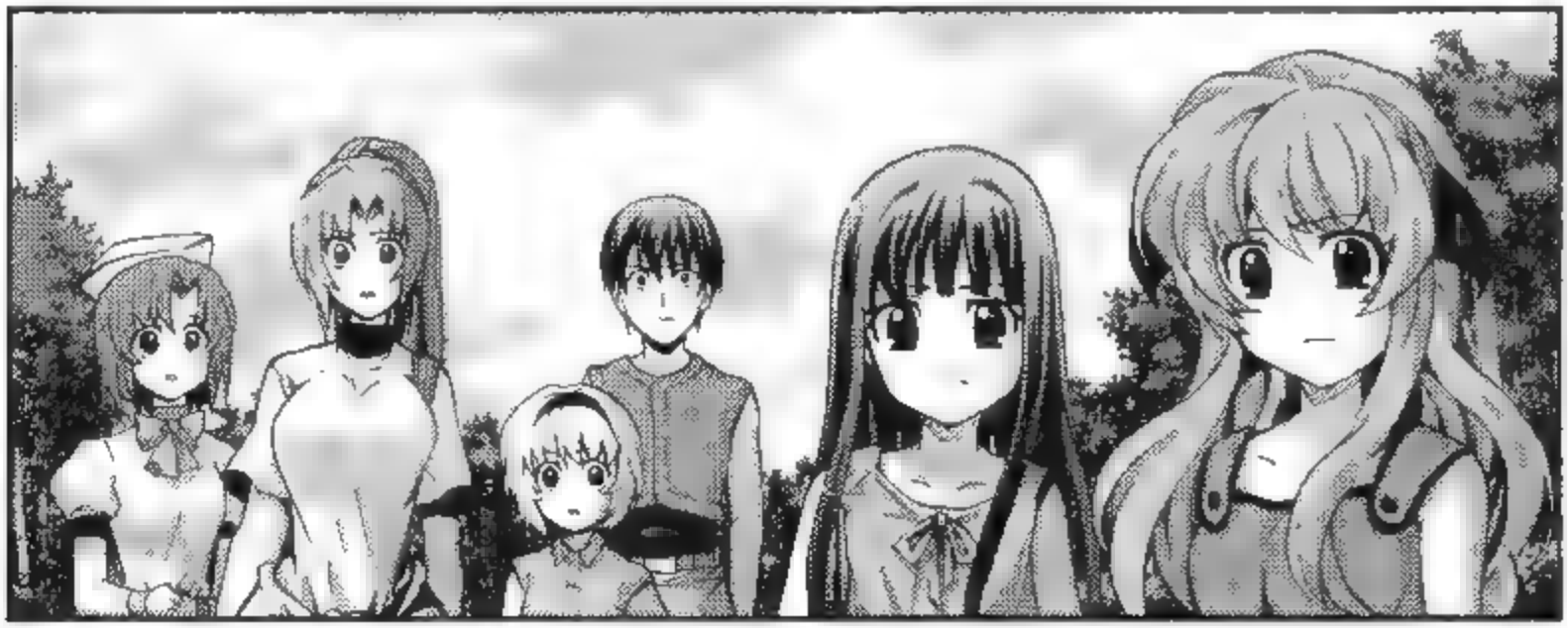
AND START ALL OVER. THEN I'M SURE YOU'LL REMEMBER...

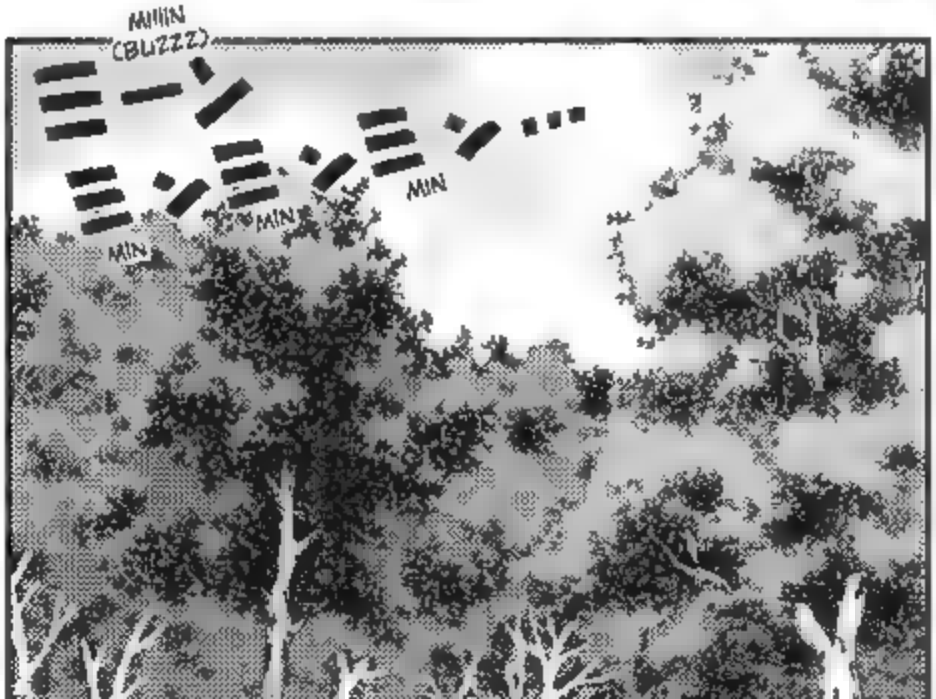
LIVE TO ATONE, AND BEG THE WORLD'S FORGIVE-NESS.

SO LET'S LIVE. DYING WON'T MAKE UP FOR YOUR SINS.

...WHO YOU REALLY ARE...

...AND WHAT YOUR SMILE REALLY LOOKS LIKE.




MIIIN
(BUZZZ)
ミーン
ミンミンミン…
MIN
MIN
MIN

SAAA
(FSHHH)
ァァァ…

IT'S OVER, SIR... ISN'T IT...?
SOON, THE HIGURASHI WILL BEGIN TO CRY.
THE COTTON DRIFTING FESTIVAL STARTS AT FIVE O'CLOCK.

THE DAY OF THE COTTON DRIFTING— A HOT DAY IN JUNE, THE SEASON WHEN THE HIGURASHI CRY...
IT'S ALL OVER, AND YET I'M STILL HERE...

RIKA, IT'S ENOUGH.

I ONCE LEFT THIS WORLD DESPISED AS A MONSTER.

THIS IS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ME...

THIS IS PROOF THAT THERE WAS A MIRACLE.

YES.

THE... BULLET ...

THAT'S ...

.....

PROOF THAT IT'S OKAY FOR YOU TO STAY HERE.

A MIRACLE REALLY HAP-PENED...

...WHEN THE HIGURASHI CRIED.

DON (BOOM)

ドン

DON

ドン

PIIIHYARA (FWEE-FWEET)

ピーヒャラ♪

RIKA...

FESTIVAL MUSIC...?

ドン DON

ドン DON (BOOM)

THEY'RE DOING A SOUND CHECK.

ドン DON

ピーヒャラ♪ PIIHYARA (FWEE-FWEET)

ハァ... SAAA (WHOOSH)

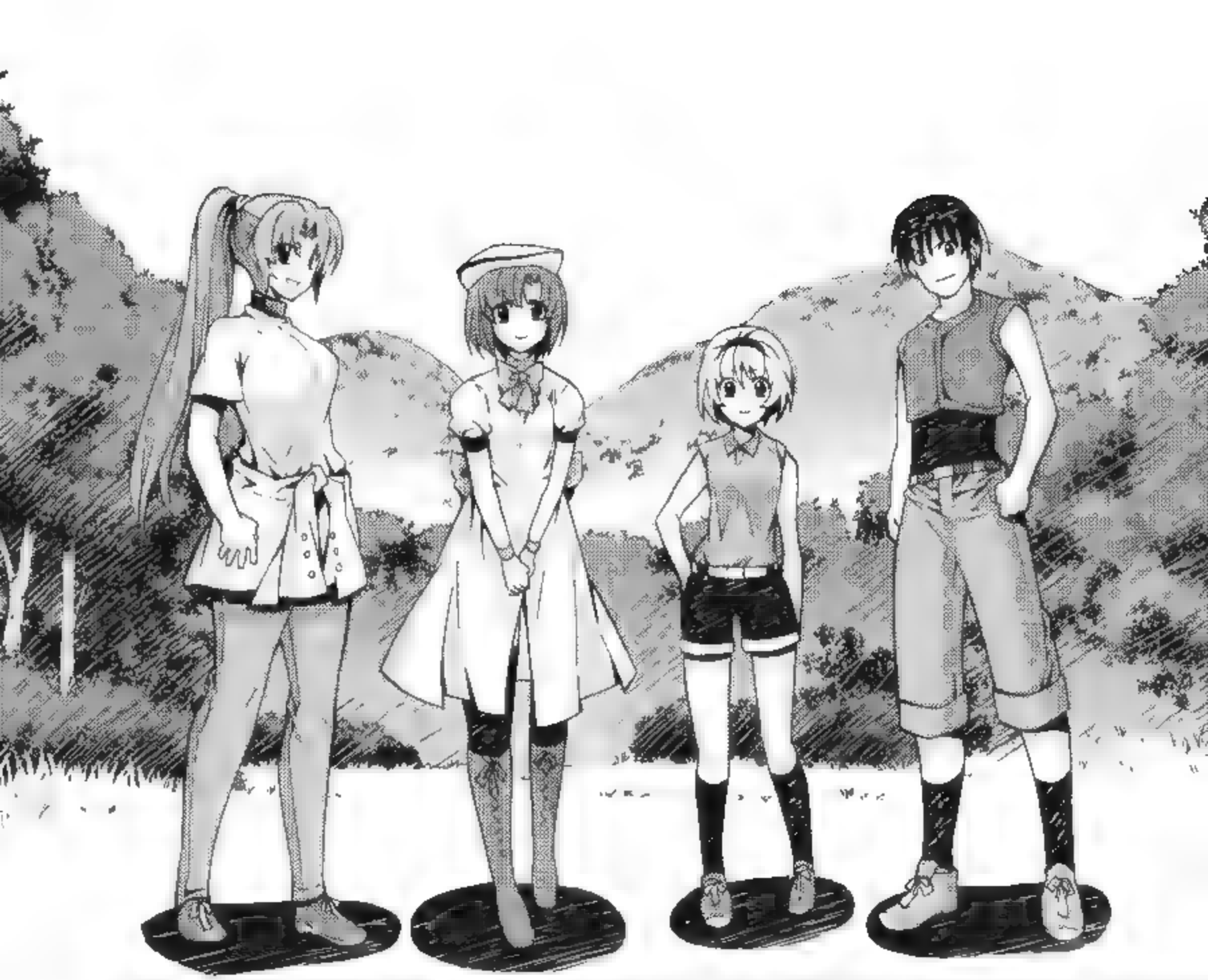
HANYU.

BUT I...

COME ON, SIR. THE FESTIVAL IS START-ING.

FESTIVALS AREN'T FOR WATCHING— THEY'RE FOR JOINING IN, SIR.

HEYYY, RIKA-CHAN! HANYU!

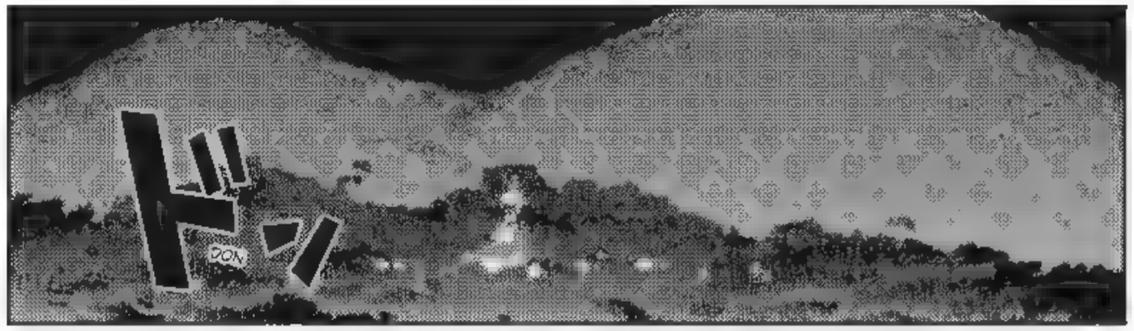


OKAY!

LET'S ALL GO TOGETH-ER.

TO THE COTTON DRIFTING FESTI-VAL.

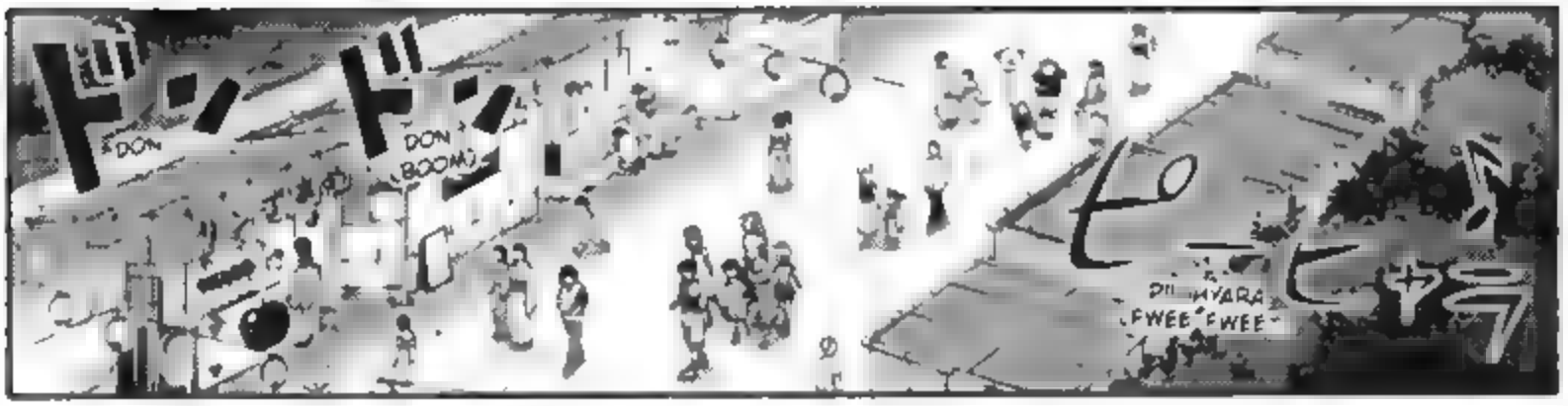
KYU (SQUEEZE)



SIGNS: OKONOMIYAKI, GOLDFISH SCOOP

SIGN: CHOCOLATE BANANAS

BANNERS: COTTON DRIFTING



SIGNS: CANDIED APPLES, MITARASHI DANGO

...HINAMI-ZAWA ENJOYED A COTTON DRIFTING THAT DIDN'T INCLUDE A BRUTAL TRAGEDY.

YES. THE MURDERS STOPPED.

THE VILLAGERS KNEW THAT THEIR PHONES HAD GONE DEAD FOR PART OF THE DAY.

BUT PHONE SERVICE WAS UP AGAIN BEFORE THEY KNEW IT, SO THEY DIDN'T LET IT BOTHER THEM.

THERE WAS SOME FUSS OVER THE DEFENSE FORCE HELICOPTER SIGHTED OVER THE BACK MOUNTAIN...

BURORORO (VRRRRR)

...BUT THE RUMORS SAY THAT IT WANDERED THERE BY MISTAKE ON ITS WAY TO A TRAINING AREA ON ANOTHER MOUNTAIN.

THERE ARE ALSO SOME WHO SAY IT LANDED NEAR IRIE CLINIC...

...BUT THE OLDER VILLAGERS LAUGHED IT OFF AND JUST SAID, "THANKS FOR DEFENDING OUR COUNTRY, YOUNG 'UNS!"

BANNERS: COTTON DRIFTING

A LARGE AMOUNT OF BROKEN GLASS, APPARENTLY FROM A CAR, WAS STREWN ALONG THE SIDE OF THE ROAD AT THE VILLAGE BORDER...

...BUT EVEN ON A SCENIC ROAD LIKE OURS, CAR ACCIDENTS ARE A COMMON OCCURRENCE.

EVERYONE HEARD AN EXTRA FIRE-WORK DURING THE FESTIVAL'S OPENING FIRE-WORKS DISPLAY, WHICH CAUSED SOME CONSTER-NATION AMONG THE PYRO-TECHNICIANS.

DON (KABOOM)

THE FIRE-WORKS LOOKED LIKE SO MUCH FUN THAT OYASHIRO-SAMA WANTED TO SET ONE OFF TOO, SIR.

BUT WITH THOSE WORDS FROM RIKA, EVERYONE WAS SATISFIED.

NIPA (BEAM)

TONIGHT IS THE BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR: THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING.

TONIGHT THE VILLAGERS FORGET ABOUT STANDING ON CEREMONY AND JUST HAVE FUN.

SIGNS: FROZEN TREATS, JUMBO! ICE POP / ICE

IF I HAD TO SAY JUST HOW TOP THEIR FORM WAS...

THE CLUB MEMBERS WERE IN TOP FORM AGAIN THIS YEAR.

BUT THEY DON'T KNOW.

TO THE VILLAGERS, IT WAS PROBABLY JUST A NORMAL COTTON DRIFTING.

...WELL, MAYBE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF I TELL YOU THAT THEY WERE ALL TAKEN TO THE FESTIVAL HQ TENT AND GIVEN A SEVERE TONGUE-LASHING BY THE VILLAGE CHIEF.

THEY DON'T KNOW THAT THE GIRLS FOUGHT THEIR WAY THROUGH COUNTLESS WORLDS...

...FOR AN INCONCEIVABLE LENGTH OF TIME TO EARN THIS JOYOUS FESTIVAL.

IT WAS A BIG CHANGE FROM NORMAL.

INDEED.

ダーン!!

DAN (BAM)

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HER LIFE, RIKA FURUDE MADE PLANS FOR A LIFE AFTER JUNE 1983.

WHEN IT GETS HOT, I WANT TO GO TO A SWIMMING POOL!

RIKA, IT'S TOO EARLY IN THE MORNING FOR YOU TO BE SO HYPER!

わくわく WAKU WAKU (GIDDY)

AND, AND ...!

I WANT TO GO SWIMMING AND STARGAZING, AND WE HAVE TO HAVE A TEST OF COURAGE AT THE SCHOOL DURING VACATION, SIR!

I CAN'T WAIT FOR SUMMER BREAK!

WHEN JUNE IS OVER, THEN IT REALLY WILL BE SUMMER, SIR!

A BOUNDLESS FUTURE LAY BEFORE RIKA FURUDE.

GARA (SLIDE)

IT WAS ONLY NATURAL FOR HER HEART TO BE DANCING INSIDE HER— IT WAS GOING TO BE HER FIRST SUMMER VACATION IN ONE HUNDRED YEARS.

A WONDERFUL WORLD.

A WORLD THAT SHINES BECAUSE SHE CAN CHOOSE ONLY ONE OF THE INFINITE POSSIBILITIES.

WE'RE GONNA PLAY HARD THIS SUMMER!

BECAUSE ONCE SUMMER BREAK IS OVER...

...ONEE HAS A STUDYING NIGHTMARE WAITING FOR HER.

WE'LL HAVE A COURAGE TEST, AND AND...!

WE'LL GO TO THE POOL!

SHE'S TALKING JUST LIKE RIKA.

...I THINK I'LL PRAY THAT HER WAY ISN'T ILLEGAL, SIR.

UHH!

I'M SURE SHE'LL GET INTO WHATEVER SCHOOL SHE WANTS IN WHATEVER UNIMAGINABLE WAY SHE HAS TO, SIR.

MION IS A MODERN WAR HERO, SIR.

BUT IF SHE WAITS TO STUDY UNTIL AFTER VACATION, WON'T IT BE TOO LATE?

THIS OLD MAN REALLY WANTS TO LEAVE THE CLUB TO YOU AFTER SHE GRADUATES.

OH, RIGHT. KEI-CHAN, HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT BEING THE NEXT CLUB PRESIDENT?

SHE WANTS TO ENJOY HER LAST SUMMER VACATION TO THE FULLEST AND IS COMING UP WITH ACTIVITY AFTER ACTIVITY UNTIL EVERYONE DROPS.

AND, OF COURSE, THERE WILL BE PENALTY GAMES!

AS THE OLDEST, MION SONOZAKI WILL BE THE FIRST TO GO ON TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

I LIKE YOU AS PRESIDENT, MION!

HUH ...?

WHAT!? I COULDN'T!

AND THAT'S WHY HE'S STILL THE LIFE OF ANY PARTY.

HEE HEE!

HEE HEE!

WELL, KEIICHI WOULDN'T BE KEIICHI IF HE WEREN'T DENSE.

IN THE END SHE WOUND UP SULKING AT HIM.

?

BUT HE KEPT SAYING HOW MUCH HE LIKED MION'S "CLUB."

HE SHOULD HAVE STOPPED THERE.

...AND THE MAGICIAN OF THE MOUTH IS HOTTER THAN EVER.

HIS FAME HAS SPREAD TO OKINOMIYA...

RENA, WAIT! KIDNAPPING IS A CRIME!

RENA RYUGU HAS ONLY BEEN GETTING MORE AND MORE LIVELY TOO.

OHHHH! I'M TAKING YOU HOME WITH ME TOO, HANYU-CHAN!

ピク (PIKU (TWITCH))

HEH-HEH! SO RENA'S THE CLASS'S MOM, HUH? THEN I'LL BE THE CLASS'S DAD!

SHE'S LIKE THE CLASS'S MOTHER.

AND I THINK SHE'S EVEN MORE WITH IT THAN SHE WAS BEFORE.

IT MAY BE HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT NORMAL RENA IS VERY CONCERNED FOR HER UNDERCLASSMEN.

OH-HO-HO! YOU TWO NEVER CHANGE!

YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME, KEIICHI-KUN...

OHH...

OOOH-HO-HO!

I USED UP ALMOST ALL OF MY TRAPS IN THE BATTLE AGAINST THE WILD DOGS.

I WANT TO MAKE EVEN BETTER TRAPS AND USE THEM AGAINST THE WATCHDOGS NEXT TIME!

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR AFTER CLUB TODAY, SATO-KO?

I'M GOING TO MY BACK MOUN-TAIN, OF COURSE.

AND LATELY, SHE'S REALLY IMPROVED HER COOKING SKILLS.

SATOKO COULD NOT BE STOPPED FROM BEING MORE SPIRITED AND ENERGETIC.

...THAT HER DREAM WILL SOON COME TRUE.

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS...

HER DREAM IS TO WEL-COME HER BROTHER HOME WITH HIS FAVORITE DISH OF FRIED CHICKEN.

BECAUSE YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD TEACHER, HANYU-SAN!

RIKA NEVER WANTS TO PUT FORTH ANY EFFORT

YOU SHOW PROMISE, SATOKO, SIR.

YOU'RE DILIGENTLY TRYING TO LEARN HOW TO COOK!

IF ANYONE HAS CHANGED, IT'S SHION SONOZAKI.

SHE'S STARTED VISITING THE CLINIC WHENEVER SHE HAS TIME OFF.

BUT AS OF YET, THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY CHANGE IN SATOSHI HOJO'S CONDITION.

SIGN: IRIE CLINIC

BUT SHION ONLY SMILES CHEERFULLY AND GIVES NO OTHER RESPONSE.

MION TEASES HER THAT IT MUST BE FOR SOME KIND OF SHADY BREAST AUGMENTATION SURGERY.

SHE TRIES TO GET SATOKO TO CALL HER "NEE-NEE" AT EVERY OPPORTU-NITY.

AND SHE'S FAWNING ON SATOKO EVEN MORE THAN SHE DID BEFORE.

IT'S ME, YOUR NEE-NEE!

SATOKO!

...AS WELL AS THE ROLE OF THE MAID EVANGELIST.

KYOSUKE IRIE CONTINUES TO PLAY THE ROLE OF THE MILD-MANNERED ADULT...

...BUT THE VILLAGERS, WHO ALL LOVE AND RESPECT HIM, MADE AN APPEAL, AND THE TALKS NEVER AMOUNTED TO ANYTHING.

AT ONE POINT, THERE WAS TALK OF SHUTTING DOWN IRIE CLINIC...

SIGN: IRIE CLINIC

HE IS EXTREMELY DILIGENT IN PURSUING HIS RESEARCH ON HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

IT WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT WORK THAT WILL MAKE PEOPLE RECONSIDER WHETHER THE SINNER CAN BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR EVERY SIN.

IT WON'T HAPPEN FOR SOME TIME YET, BUT HE WILL SHOCK THE ACADEMIC WORLD WITH HIS GROUNDBREAKING THESIS ON THE EFFECTS OF CHANGES IN THE BRAIN.

...BUT NOW HE IS RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE COMMUNITY.

HE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED ONE OF THE VILLAGE AT THE START...

AND IN HIS CITATIONS...

Hifumi Takano
Miyo Takano

...HE LISTS THE NAMES OF MIYO TAKANO AND THE LATE HIFUMI TAKANO.

AND HIS COMPANION, MIYO TAKANO, HASN'T BEEN SEEN SINCE THAT DAY.

...BUT HE ISN'T SEEN AROUND THE VILLAGE AS FREQUENTLY AS HE USED TO BE.

JIROU TOMITAKE CONTINUES TO VISIT HINAMIZAWA AT HIS USUAL TIME OF YEAR...

I'M SURE SHE'LL POP UP UNEXPECTEDLY SOMEDAY...

...AND SCARE EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE WITH HER INCESSANT GHOST STORIES.

BUT ONE LOOK AT TOMITAKE'S FACE WILL TELL YOU THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

NO ONE KNOWS WHERE SHE WENT.

...AND PRETENDING TO HAVE RUN INTO HIM BY COINCIDENCE AT THE COTTON DRIFTING FESTIVAL.

HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER SURPRISED HIM BY COMING TO HINAMIZAWA...

SIGNS: CANDIED APPLES, GOLDFISH SCOOP, ICE

MAMORU AKASAKA'S STORY WILL REALLY MAKE YOU LAUGH.

SIGN: MITARASHI DANGO

...AND CALLED HIM "DADDY."

DADDY! ☆

THEN RIKA CAME UP...

RIKA AND AKASAKA'S DAUGHTER, MIYUKI, BECAME GOOD FRIENDS AND ARE JUST LIKE SISTERS...

BUT HIS FAMILY FELL IN LOVE WITH HINAMIZAWA TOO.

I-I-I-IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK, YUKIE ...!!

GIRL

GIRL STRANGE

GIRL

MA-MORU-SAN... CARE TO EXPLAIN THIS...?

SHE'S NOT... YOUR LOVE CHILD... IS SHE?

AND IT SEEMS THAT AKANE SONOZAKI SITS AT HIS MAHJONG TABLE.

KURAUDO OOISHI'S OLD PASSION FOR MAHJONG FLARED UP AGAIN.

JARA (RATTLE)

ジャラ

THE RIOT POLICE MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED TO THE MAHJONG CLUB TO DEAL WITH THIS OMINOUS GROUPING.

THE NEXT PHASE OF HIS LIFE IS WIDE OPEN BEFORE HIM.

MOST LIKELY BECAUSE THE HATRED HE'S CARRIED ALL THESE YEARS HAS FINALLY MELTED AWAY.

THE WHOLE PRECINCT HAS NOTICED HOW HIS EXPRESSIONS HAVE GROWN SOFTER.

...BUT HE'S THINKING HE'LL COME BACK TO VISIT EVERY SUMMER.

HE STILL PLANS TO GO TO HOKKAIDO AFTER HE RETIRES...

TATSUYOSHI KASAI'S LIFE HAS CHANGED THE LEAST OF ALL.

THE SCARY PART IS THAT HE RANKS IT AT, SAY, MAYBE THE MIDDLE OF THE TOP.

THE EVENTS OF THAT DAY MIGHT HAVE CAUSED SOME TO RETHINK THE TRAJECTORY OF THEIR LIVES...

...BUT FOR KASAI, THEY WERE JUST ADDED TO HIS LONG LIST OF WAR STORIES.

THAT TOO IS VERY LIKE HIM.

COME ON! DO IT!

...HE ACTS AS IF HE HAS NO IDEA WHAT THEY COULD BE REFERRING TO.

WHEN FACED WITH SUCH REQUESTS ...

KASAI, GO ALL SCARY AGAIN!

FURTHERMORE, HE SEEMS TO REGRET SHOWING PEOPLE A GLIMPSE OF HIS FORMER LIFE.

HANYU FURUDE IS DOING WELL.

MIIIIIN (BuZZZ) MIN MIN MIN

FINALLY, LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MYSELF.

...AND THE TITLE OF "DARK HORSE" THAT WAS ONCE HELD BY KEIICHI WAS REASSIGNED TO HANYU.

SHE'S STARTING TO BREAK OUT OF HER PENALTY-GAME STREAK...

THROUGH THE CLUB, I AM SLOWLY LEARNING THE STRENGTH OF LIVING IN THE WORLD AS A HUMAN.

UHH!

INDOMI-TABLE AND SLY!

THAT'S HOW YOU NEED TO BE TO SURVIVE IN THIS CLUB, SIR!

IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S A GOOD GIRL THAT SHE'S SO QUICK TO LEARN THE CLUB RULES.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HANYU THAT WOULD BE A GOOD GIRL AND FALL FOR EVERY-THING!?

AND I STILL REMEM-BER...

...THAT DAY...

THE NIGHT OF THE VERY LONGEST DAY OF MY ENTIRE THOUSAND-YEAR JOURNEY...

SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 1983.

SIGN: TAKOYAKI

KATA

KATA

KATA (SHAKE)

BOX: CARAMEL

CUP: ICE

...BUT IT WAS DELI-CIOUS.
I BOUGHT MY FIRST CANDY APPLE...IT WAS FULL OF HOLES FROM THE BITES EVERYONE TOOK OUT OF IT...
UHH...
IT WOULD HAVE TASTED BETTER IF I'D EATEN IT MORE SLOWLY.
I TOOK PART IN A SHAVED ICE SPEED-EATING CONTEST.
KIIIN (FREEZE)
キーーーン!
THERE WASN'T ANY OCTOPUS IN IT, BUT IT WAS STILL DELICIOUS.
I JOINED IN A TAKOYAKI SPEED-EATING CONTEST.
FWOO!
FWOO!
I HAD FUN.

KANA (CHIRP) KANA KANA

I HAD NO IDEA THE FIRST FESTIVAL I EVER TOOK PART IN WOULD BE SO MUCH FUN.

シャーン…

SHAN (JANGLE)

KANG IN THERE, RIKA-CHAMA!

YOU CAN DO IT, RIKA-CHAN!

WAAAAA (CHEEER)

ワアアア...

YOU CAN DO IT, RIKA-CHAN!

OOOO (CHEEER)

RIKA! FIGHT, SIR, FIGHT !!

...THE DANCE OFFERING FROM THAT ALTAR.

UNTIL NOW, I HAD ALWAYS WATCHED...

I WAS ALWAYS ALONE...

COME ON, HANYU-CHAN! WE HAVE TO CHEER FOR RIKA-CHAN!

DON'T GET SQUISHED, HANYU!

DON (SHOVE)

UHH!?

...NOT TODAY.

BUT...

I WATCHED THE DANCE OFFERING FROM THE CROWD, PACKED IN WITH EVERYONE ELSE.

THAT—

GYUU (SQUEEZE)

—OF ALL THE DANCES THAT HAVE BEEN OFFERED TO ME OVER THE LAST THOUSAND YEARS...

...THAT ONE...WAS THE ONE I LOVED THE MOST...

I KNOW, SIR.

YOU PAT IT LIKE THIS, AND THEN YOU SEND IT DOWN THE RIVER.

ぽん PON (PAT)

ぽん PON

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO DO IT?

HERE, HANYU-CHAN. SOME COTTON.

SO (SOFTLY)

THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE FORCING OUR SINS ONTO THE COTTON AND SENDING THEM AWAY.

WE LET OUR SINS DRIFT DOWN TO THE SWAMP.

NO WORLD SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO EXIST.

ONLY AS A TEMPORARY WORLD ON THE ROAD TO THE NEXT WORLD.

WHAT MORE WOULD YOU WISH FOR?

HANYU PURSUES EVIL WISHES.

BE-CAUSE...

IT WAS AN ATTEMPT TO CONTROL THE UNIVERSE VOLUNTARILY.

IT WAS AN ATTEMPT TO CONTROL THE UNIVERSE SELVES.

...AND STRIVE TOWARD A WORLD WHERE OUR SINS ARE WASHED AWAY...

IN THIS WAY WE PURSUE EACH OTHER, HELP EACH OTHER, BUILD UP THE WORLD OF MAN...

WE CAN BE HAPPY IN THE VERY, VERY NEAR FUTURE.

AND I DON'T MEAN SOME-TIME-IN THE DISTANT FUTURE.

みた

だいごう

...THE HAPPIER WE CAN BECOME.

...THE MORE WE WISH FOR HAPPI-NESS...

WE CAN BE HAPPY...

...WHEN THE HIGURASHI CRY.

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN HAPPINESS.
THE HARD PART IS ACCEPTING IT.

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN HAPPINESS.
THE HARD PART IS ACTING ON IT.

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN HAPPINESS.
THE HARD PART IS THE COMPROMISE.

We will take back all the happiness
from then till now.

A hundred years of happiness for me.
And a thousand years for you.

—Frederica Bernkastel

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY

FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC

FIN

IRIE INSTITUTE COUP D'ÉTAT
CASE REPORT (DRAFT)

THE IRIE INSTITUTE COUP D'ÉTAT

BACKGROUND

UPON LEARNING OF THE MEASURES LAID OUT IN EMERGENCY MANUAL 34, ONE OF THE POWERS GRANTED TO THE IRIE INSTITUTE (HEREAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE INSTITUTE), A PLAN WAS SET IN MOTION BY AN UNKNOWN PERSON TO ENACT THE MANUAL FOR REASONS AS YET UNKNOWN. INSTITUTE VICE DIRECTOR, MAJOR TAKANO, AND THE COMMANDER OF THE INSTITUTE'S SPECIAL FORCES, FIRST LIEUTENANT OKONOGI, WERE PAID TO IMPLEMENT THIS PLAN. THE AIM OF THEIR ACTIONS WAS TO CREATE A NATIONWIDE PANIC.

RESPONSE

THE INSTITUTE'S AUTHORITY WAS IMMEDIATELY SUSPENDED, AND AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM WAS QUICKLY DISPATCHED TO SEIZE CONTROL OF THE INSTITUTE. ALL INSTITUTE PERSONNEL SURRENDERED AND WERE SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED. THEY WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AT SENIOR HEADQUARTERS.

THE IRIE INSTITUTE LEADERS

LIEUTENANT COLONEL IRIE (INSTITUTE DIRECTOR)

A COURT OF INQUIRY HAS DETERMINED THAT THE LIEUTENANT COLONEL WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE PLOT. NEVERTHELESS, HE WAS TURNED OVER TO A DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE FOR FAILING IN HIS DIRECTORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES. THE COMMITTEE REVOKED THE LIEUTENANT COLONEL'S TITLE AS DIRECTOR AND TURNED HIM OVER TO SENIOR HEADQUARTERS. HE WAS THEN ORDERED TO RETURN TO THE INSTITUTE TO FINISH REMAINING BUSINESS THERE.

MAJOR TAKANO (VICE DIRECTOR)

A COURT OF INQUIRY HAS DETERMINED THAT THE MAJOR WAS THE INSTIGATOR OF THE COUP. INVESTIGATIONS INTO ADDITIONAL PERSONS WHO MAY HAVE BEHIND HER ACTIONS ARE ONGOING. FURTHERMORE, AN EXAMINATION BY THE INSTITUTE HAS SHOWN THAT THE MAJOR WAS EXHIBITING SYMPTOMS OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME AND SUGGESTS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE MAJOR CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR HER ACTIONS.
TO PREVENT HER FROM SUCCUMBING TO THE FINAL STAGES OF THE DISEASE, THE MAJOR HAS BEEN SENT TO THE INSTITUTE, WHERE SHE IS CURRENTLY UNDERGOING TREATMENT. SHE WILL BE SENT TO THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE WHEN SHE SHOWS SIGNS OF RECOVERY.

FIRST LIEUTENANT OKONOGI

A COURT OF INQUIRY HAS DETERMINED THAT THE FIRST LIEUTENANT WAS AN ACCOMPLICE TO THE COUP. EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT HE HAD BEEN PAID OFF BY THE MAJOR. BUT MANY POINTS REMAIN IN QUESTION AND THEY ARE LOOKING INTO ADDITIONAL PERSONS WHO MAY HAVE BEEN BEHIND THE ACTIONS.
AS THE FIRST LIEUTENANT WAS COOPERATIVE WITH THE COURT OF INQUIRY'S INTERROGATION AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE SOLVING OF THIS CASE, THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE HAS AGREED TO NEGOTIATE SOME OF HIS CHARGES.

THE IRIE INSTITUTE

AS INITIALLY PLANNED, THE RESEARCH IS TO BE COMPLETED AND DISCONTINUED WITHIN THREE YEARS. SENIOR HEADQUARTERS HAS ASSIGNED A NEW DIRECTOR TO THE INSTITUTE. THE FORMER DIRECTOR WILL CONTINUE HIS RESEARCH UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE NEW DIRECTOR.
ONCE HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME HAS BEEN ERADICATED, THE RESEARCH WING WILL BE COMPLETELY SHUT DOWN, AND THE ABOVEGROUND CLINIC WILL BE PURCHASED BY THE CITIZENS.
FURTHERMORE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POSTSCRIPT OF THE CONTRACT DRAWN UP WHEN HE ASSUMED HIS POSITION, LIEUTENANT COLONEL IRIE WILL BE GIVEN FIRST NEGOTIATION RIGHTS.

MISC.

A FACTION OF THE COURT OF INQUIRY HAS MADE CLAIMS THAT THE COURT PROCEEDINGS WERE NOT CONDUCTED ACCORDING TO STANDARD PROCEDURES. CONSIDERING THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS CASE, THERE MAY BE A NEED TO ASSEMBLE A NEW COURT OF INQUIRY AND INSPECT THE MATTER FROM A NEW ANGLE.

HOW DOES THIS LOOK? WITH YOUR APPROVAL, I WILL SEND THIS TO THE PRIME MINISTER TOMORROW EVENING.
—NOMURA

NOW THIS STORY HAS COME TO AN END.

BUT IN THE OCEAN OF FRAGMENTS, A WORLD LIKE THIS ONE CAN ALSO BE FOUND.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK?

カナ KANA
カナ KANA
カナ KANA
カナ KANA
カナ KANA
カナ KANA (CHIRP)
I'M GOING OUT TO PLAY!

KIDS' MEAL FLAGS

SEE YOU LATER!

MIYOKO!

YOUR MOTHER AND I ARE GOING TO THE DEPARTMENT STORE...

I KNOW SHE'S COLLECTING FLAGS FROM THOSE KIDS' MEALS.

I THOUGHT SHE'D WANT TO GO WITH US.

LA-LA~♪

LA-LA~♪

HUH?

MIYOKO TANASHI.

DO YOU WANT TO LIVE?

...OR DO YOU WANT TO DIE?

WHO ARE YOU, MA'AM?

.....?

I WANT TO LIVE!

TA (TMP)

HEY, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I SAID I WANTED TO DIE?

THEN GO.

I SEE...

SU (SHFF)

EH!? HEY, THAT'S NO FAIR!

MOM AND DAD ARE GOING TO THE DEPARTMENT STORE WITHOUT ME!!

YOU'D GET ONE MORE KIDS' MEAL FLAG.

YOU WON'T REGRET YOUR DECISION...?

...YOU'RE SURE?

I'M GOING HOME, OKAY?

TATA

...OH.

IT'S OKAY, MA'AM.

I'M NOT TELLING... I'M A MEAN LADY.

WHY WOULD I REGRET IT?

BECAUSE NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, MOM AND DAD WILL BE WITH ME!

.....

YOU WON'T REGRET IT, WILL YOU...?

WELL, I'M GOING NOW!

ガタン GATAN

ゴトン GOTON (CLUNK)

ガタン GATAN (CLANK)

TEE-HEE! YES, SIR!

YOU STAY IN YOUR SEAT SO YOU DON'T GET HURT.

THE TRAIN'S SHAKING A LOT TODAY...

IF I SLOW DOWN WE'LL BE LATE...

GIGI (CREAK)

ギギ...

GATAN ガタン

GATAN ガタン

GATAN ガタン

GATAN ガタン

GATAN ガタン

EEK ...!

GATAN (CLANK)

GATAN

MIYO-KO!!

DAD!

MOM ...!

I HAD A LOT OF FUN TODAY!

AND YOU GOT ONE OF THOSE KIDS' MEAL FLAGS YOU'RE SO FOND OF.

AH-HA-HA-HA!

THAT WAS SCARY ON THE TRAIN.

BUT I'M GLAD I WENT TO THE DE-PARTMENT STORE...

ALL MY EFFORT PAID OFF, AND NOW I HAVE TWENTY FLAGS!

I MADE A WISH THAT IF I COLLECTED TWENTY FLAGS, I WOULD BE REALLY HAPPY.

I JUST KNOW SOMETHING WONDERFUL IS GOING TO HAPPEN!

THERE'S GOING TO BE A WONDERFUL MIRACLE!

AH-HA-HA-HA-HA

THE ENGINEER SPED UP, JUST LIKE HE ALWAYS DOES.

BUT THIS TIME, IT JUST SO HAPPENED THAT NOTHING HAPPENED TO THE TRAIN.

I THINK I LIKE IT THIS WAY TOO.

GETTING THE MIRACLE IN ADVANCE...

HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC 4 END

©Ryukishi07/Project Higurashi
"HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY"

ABOUT THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC": THIS IS MY WISH.

ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR: RYUKISHI07

HELLO, I'M RYUKISHI07.

IN THIS VOLUME, THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC" REACHES ITS CONCLUSION AT LAST. IN OTHER WORDS, THIS LONG, LONG TRIP THROUGH THE VARIOUS FRAGMENTS FINALLY COMES TO AN END. TO ALL WHO HAVE WALKED WITH ME ON THE LONG JOURNEY OF THIS STORY, I TRULY THANK YOU. WHEN I REALIZE THAT THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME I WRITE AN AFTERWORD FOR THE MANGA VERSION OF THE MAIN *HIGURASHI* QUESTION-AND-ANSWER ARCS, I AM FILLED WITH DEEP EMOTION.

THE STORY ONLY COVERS THE WEEK LEADING UP TO THE COTTON DRIFTING HERE IN THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC." IT WAS A VERY BUSY WEEK FOR OUR HEROES AND TRULY THEIR FINAL WEEK. FOR RIKA AND HER FRIENDS AND FOR MIYO TAKANO. HOW DID YOU ENJOY THE WORLD OF *HIGURASHI*? AS YOU KNOW, RIKA AND HANYU, IN ADDITION TO THE CLUB MEMBERS AND EVERYONE ELSE IN HINAMIZAWA (THOUGH THEY DIDN'T KNOW IT), HAVE REPEATED THIS WORLD AGAIN AND AGAIN. IT WAS A VICIOUS, CRUEL, AND COMPLETELY OUTRAGEOUS WORLD. BUT FOR THOSE OF US LIVING NOW, MAYBE IN EXCHANGE FOR NOT CONSTANTLY REPEATING OUR WORLD, WE'RE BEING TESTED TO SEE HOW WE WILL LIVE OUR ONE LIFETIME. KEIICHI AND HIS FRIENDS FAILED AGAIN AND AGAIN THROUGH COUNTLESS WORLDS. AND THEN IN THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC," THEY FINALLY REACHED A CONCLUSION THAT COULD BE CALLED THE "RIGHT ONE." BUT I HOPE THAT YOU, WHO HAVE SEEN THE MANY WORLDS, WILL NEVER FORGET THE TRAGEDY AND REGRET THAT THEY ENDURED AGAIN AND AGAIN. AND I HOPE THAT YOU, LIVING RIGHT NOW, WILL NEVER FORGET THE EVERYDAY MIRACLES OF LIVING A NORMAL LIFE—OF LAUGHING, EATING, FALLING IN LOVE.....THAT IS MY WISH.

NOW, THEN, RIKA AND HANYU HAVE REACHED THE END OF JUNE 1983 FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND THEIR LONG, LONG JOURNEY HAS REACHED ONE CONCLUSION. BUT THE WORLD OF *HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY* HAS JUST A LITTLE BIT FURTHER TO GO IN THE "DICE KILLING ARC." I HOPE YOU WILL STAY WITH ME A LITTLE LONGER TOO.

KARIN SUZURAGI AFTERWORD

THE MANGA VERSION OF THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC" HAS REACHED ITS END. THE JOURNEY THROUGH ALL EIGHT VOLUMES FELT BOTH LONG AND SHORT—IT WAS OVER IN A FLASH. I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RUN THIS FAR IF NOT FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR WATCHING OVER ME.

UP UNTIL NOW, I HAVE LIVED MY LIFE ALONGSIDE *HIGURASHI*. THE "ABDUCTED BY DEMONS ARC" WAS TERRIFYING. RENA'S TRANSFORMATIONS WERE SO SCARY, I READ IT WITH MY HAND UP, POISED TO COVER THE SCREEN. THE "COTTON DRIFTING ARC" WAS FILLED WITH SUCH CONSTANT TERROR THAT, AS EXPECTED, I READ ON WITH MY HAND UP TO THE SCREEN. THE "CURSE KILLING ARC" KEPT SURPRISING ME, BUT I CHARGED THROUGH IT. THE ACTION SCENES IN THE "TIME KILLING ARC" HAD ME AT THE EDGE OF MY SEAT, WONDERING ANXIOUSLY IF AKASAKA WOULD MAKE IT THROUGH ALIVE. THE "EYE OPENING ARC" WAS SO FASCINATING AS IT EXPOSED THE TRICKS AND TURNS UNDERLYING THE PLOT, I COULDN'T TEAR MY EYES AWAY. THE "ATONEMENT ARC" MADE MY HEART LEAP AS IT ALTERNATED BETWEEN ONCOMING TERROR AND RELIEF. THE "MASSACRE ARC" BROUGHT ME TO TEARS WITH ITS THEME OF THE POWER OF UNITY AND ITS UNBEARABLE REALITY. AND I LOST ALL TRACK OF TIME PLAYING THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC," WITH ITS POWER OF OPTIMISM, COLLECTION OF MIRACLES, AND EXHILARATING BATTLES. I REMEMBER BEING COMPLETELY ABSORBED, READING ABOUT THE PAINFUL AND POWERFUL PROCESS THROUGH WHICH MIYO TAKANO BUILT UP HER INDOMITABLE WILL. I AM SO HAPPY TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO TURN PARTS OF ALL THAT INTO A MANGA.

...STILL, RENA'S TRANSFORMED FACE REALLY WAS HORRIFIC, AND FOR A WHILE I COULDN'T EVEN LOOK AT THE OFFICIAL MESSAGE BOARDS BECAUSE OF IT. BUT NOW I'M OVERCOME WITH URGES TO SEE IT, TO DRAW IT, TO SEEK IT OUT. I'M SO FICKLE. THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I COULDN'T HANDLE HORROR, BUT THANKS TO *HIGURASHI*, I THINK I'VE BUILT UP A RESISTANCE TO IT. IT ALSO TAUGHT ME A LOT ABOUT MOE. CAT EARS, KNEESOCKS, THE "ABSOLUTE TERRITORY," MAID-SAN PARADISE...I THINK THE ANGEL MORT DESIGN IS EXCELLENT. THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME DRAW SO MUCH.

IF THERE'S ONE THING I REGRET, IT'S THAT I COULDN'T VISIT SHIRAKAWA-GO AGAIN WHILE I WAS WORKING ON THE SERIES. I HAD NO IDEA THE MEMORIES OF MY VISIT BEFORE STARTING THE SERIES WOULD BE SUCH A SOURCE OF COMFORT TO ME. SHIRAKAWA-GO IS A GREAT PLACE. ITS NATURAL SCENERY IS BEAUTIFUL, AND THE PEOPLE THERE ARE VERY KIND. IF YOU EVER VISIT, I HOPE YOU GET A TASTE OF JUST HOW WONDERFUL THE PLACE IS. IF I EVER HAVE THE CHANCE TO SPEND MORE TIME THERE, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPERIENCE DUSK AND EARLY MORNING AT SHIRAKAWA-GO. I WANT TO SEE THE SUMMER WATER SPRINKLING AND THE SAKE FESTIVAL AND—THOUGH IT WOULD BE HARD TO GET THERE IN WINTER—WHAT IT'S LIKE IN THE SNOW. I BET IT'S AMAZING. I WANT TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF SHIRAKAWA-GO AND ALL OF JAPAN'S NATURE. THE CICADAS AND HIGURASHI TOO, OF COURSE. CHIRP, CHIRP, CHIRRRP...

TO EVERYONE WHO SENT ME LETTERS DURING THE SERIES' RUN, THANK YOU. SOME PEOPLE SENT ME MULTIPLE LETTERS, AND THEY WERE A BIG ENCOURAGEMENT TO ME. THANK YOU FOR ALL THE NEW YEAR'S CARDS, SUMMER GREETING CARDS, AND WINTER GREETING CARDS. I'M SORRY I COULDN'T SEND YOU REPLIES. I HOPE I CAN RETURN YOUR KINDNESS WITH THE MANGA I DRAW EVERY DAY AND BY FILLING IN AS MUCH SPACE AS POSSIBLE WITH BONUS DRAWINGS. YOU SENT ME SO MANY ADORABLE ILLUSTRATIONS OF RENA, MION AND SHION, RIKA-CHAMA AND HANYU—THEY WERE SUCH A PLEASURE TO SEE. I'VE BEEN VERY BLESSED TO HAVE MET ALL OF YOU THROUGH *HIGURASHI*.

NOW THAT THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC" IS OVER AND RIKA HAS MADE IT PAST JUNE OF 1983, THE "DICE KILLING ARC," WHICH COULD PERHAPS BE CALLED HER FINAL TRIAL, IS ABOUT TO BEGIN. YOU COULD SAY IT'S THE ARC THAT BRINGS ALL OF THE *HIGURASHI* STORIES TO A CONCLUSION. I HOPE YOU WILL WATCH OVER HANYU AS SHE CONTENDS WITH THE FEELINGS IN HER HEART AND RIKA AS SHE STRUGGLES TOWARD A NEW RESOLUTION.

IF POSSIBLE, I HOPE THAT THIS LAST VOLUME WILL REACH BT-SAN. I WOULD BE SO HAPPY IF BT-SAN—WHO ALWAYS READ THE *HIGURASHI* MANGA WITH A SMILE, ENJOYING IT WITH ALL HIS HEART—COULD READ THIS BOOK.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR STAYING WITH US ALL THIS TIME. I HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY THE "DICE KILLING ARC"!

KARIN SUZURAGI

-SPECIAL THANKS-

-ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR-

RYUKISHI07-SAMA, BT-SAMA, YATAZAKURA-SAMA, TOKIKA-SAMA, TSUBAKI NARUSE-SAMA, NEKOZAKURA-SAMA, KAKUMU-SAMA

-MY EDITORS-

KOIZUMI-SAMA, KUBOTA-SAMA

-MY STAFF-

JUN AKAGAMI-SAMA, SHIGETOMO TANAKURA-SAMA, NAYU Y-SAMA, NIWAKO-SAMA, NODA-SAMA, TOMOKA FURUTA-SAMA, YF-SAMA

AND YOU!

TRANSLATION NOTES

Page 64

Satoko's chant comes from a version of tag. In Japan, the person who is "it" is referred to as the *oni*, or "demon," and is blindfolded. The other players tease and lure him or her closer. Satoko's knowledge of the song is a bit dubious, as this particular version was often played in the red-light district.

Page 73

Skylark 13 is referring to the manga character **Golgo 13**, an expert assassin who starred in an animated movie in 1983.

Page 84

Mion is referring to two historic naval heroes: **Horatio Nelson** of the British Navy and **Heihachiro Togo** of the Japanese Navy. Nelson excelled in strategy and unconventional tactics, and Togo was known as the "Nelson of the East."

Page 109

While Kasai could easily be compared to any number of ferocious beasts, the character in his given name means "dragon," which is why he is described as the **"Dragon with the shotgun."**

Page 129

Yamato Nadeshiko is the Japanese name for the personification of pure, feminine beauty. Irie is contrasting it with the "gal," or ***gyaru***, fashions of the late twentieth century. ***Wabi-sabi*** is a term used to describe the Japanese aesthetic of simple, quiet beauty.

Page 156

The **Buster Home Run** is a reference to *Gunbuster*, a series about people who pilot robots to fight aliens. The Buster Home Run is one of the weapons that can be used by the robot Gunbuster.

Page 161

The **dead sister** seen across the river comes from Japanese beliefs about the afterlife. According to Japanese tradition, when a person dies, he or she crosses a river into the next life. Presumably, if someone sees a deceased relative on the other side of a river, that indicates he or she is about to cross into the next life to join the loved one. The relative is waiting to welcome them.

Page 167

Gundam, as most anime fans know, is a popular giant robot anime made up of many different series. As a matter of fact, the Japanese actor who voiced Keiichi in the *Higurashi* anime voiced the hero Kira Yamato in *Gundam SEED*.

Page 270

In politics, it's not uncommon for the higher-ups to force all the blame onto a lower-ranking person when things go wrong and then take that lower-ranking person out of the picture. In Japan, this technique is referred to as **"the lizard's tail,"** capturing the image of a lizard shedding its tail in order to escape capture.

...MY CHEST TO GROW...
-:MUMBLE:-
-:MUMBLE:-

I WANT MY...

MEW...

I CAN FINALLY GROW UP!!

SOON I'LL GET PAST THE SUMMER OF 1983!

DO YOU HAVE ANY GOALS FOR THE FUTURE, RIKA, SIR?

ARE YOU IG-NOR-ING ME!?

DO YOU ALL HAVE GOALS, SIRS?

HUH!?

MION, DO YOU HAVE A DREAM FOR THE FUTURE?

I WANT TO BE A BETTER COOK!

COME TO OUR HOUSE. I'LL TEACH YOU!

WHY'RE YOU MUTTERING? I CAN'T HEAR YOU.

ARGH! IT'S A SECRET !!

BOGUU (KAPOW)

THIS OLD MAN WANTS...

I WANT... TO BE MORE FEMININE... AND GET MARRIED...

I JUST HOPE THAT WHEN WE'RE ALL GROWN UP, WE CAN STILL HAVE FUN AND BE HAPPY TOGETHER.

I HOPE!

I WANT TO BUILD A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH KEI-CHAN BEFORE I GRADUATE.
Go at him with all you've got! I'll give you tips!

I MADE IT PAST THE COTTON DRIFTING OF 1983!
JUNE 20
I'M SO HAPPY, I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF THE CALENDAR!
MEW!

G-GOOD MORN-ING, KEI-CHAN...
THE NEXT DAY.

JUNE 20
チラッ
CHIRA (GLANCE)

!?
ザワ…
ZAWA (MURMUR)

CHIRA
チラ
JUNE 20
チラッ
CHIRA

Huh?
WAAAH!
HE'S TOTALLY FREAKED OUT NOW! STUPID SHION!

IT COULDN'T BE... HINAMI-ZAWA SYN-DROME ...!?
RIKA IS ACTING STRANGE-LY...

THAT TODAY IS A PRECIOUS TIME THAT WE'LL NEVER RELIVE.

RIKA-CHAN HAS REALIZED ...

LIKE SHE'S TRYING HARD TO LIVE EVERY DAY TO THE FULLEST.

RIKA SEEMS DIFFERENT SOMEHOW.

I LIVE WITH ALL MY MIGHT SO THAT I WON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS.

RENA TREASURES EVERY DAY SO SHE WILL ALWAYS BE HAPPY.

RENAAA! KIDNAPPING IS A CRIME!!

OHHH!

...I'LL GIVE MY ALL TO TAKING YOU HOME WITH ME!!

RENA ...

AND SO...

HIGURASHI
WHEN THEY CRY
FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC ④

RYUKISHI07
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Higurashi WHEN THEY CRY Festival Accompanying Arc, Vol. 7, 8
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Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
237 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017

HachetteBookGroup.com
YenPress.com

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First Yen Press ebook Edition: April 2014

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-23784-0

App ISBN: 978-0-316-23895-3